

The Middlebury Campus

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The Grid Presented to College

By Ethan Brady
Senior Writer

On Wednesday, Nov. 2, in Wilson Hall, three administrators — Katy Smith Abbott, Andi Lloyd and Miguel Fernández — unveiled a plan they developed over the summer to remedy student stress. This was the first time that the plan, which they termed “The Grid,” was available to the student body. About seventy students and faculty were in attendance at the forum.

At their May meeting the Board of Trustees charged the administration with addressing stress and inclusivity on campus. The resulting plan outlines short-term and long-term solutions that are broken down into three categories: building community and resilience, promoting mind-body well-being and fostering diversity and inclusivity. Each objective has its own chart and associated time agenda.

“It seems to me like the administration is very desperate for some kind of concrete action,” Prasanna Vankina ’18 said. “It is clear that the administration cares a lot, but a lot of the proposals they suggested seemed reactive.”

During the presentation, Smith Abbott described intensive brainstorming sessions over the summer between herself, Lloyd, and Fernández, in a room on the second floor of Old Chapel, with a white board, “a great deal of snacks,” and diagrams and buzzwords of stressors for today’s college students.

“I don’t know how much interaction there actually was with students,” Vankina said.

SGA President Ilana Gratch ’16 said that the SGA’s main goal in holding this stress forum was to create an opportunity for students to enter the conversation. Last week, the *Campus* editorial board called

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RACHEL FRANK

Festive lights and brighten the McCullough quad on a cloudy, but snowless, December night.

Faculty Panel Talks HIV/AIDS

By Abigail Browngoehl
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, Dec. 3, in an effort to raise awareness of HIV infection and the AIDS pandemic, GlobeMed in partnership with Chellis House held a panel discussion in honor of World AIDS Day. The panel of professors across different disciplines addressed this year’s central theme, “The Time to Act is Now,” when addressing their perspectives on HIV/AIDS around the world. Panelists consisted of Professor of the Practice of Global Health Pam Berenbaum, Professor of Economics Erick Gong and Profes-

sor of Psychology Rob Moeller.

World AIDS Day was the first ever global health day that began in 1988. Held annually on Dec. 1, the day is a formal opportunity for people across the world to unite in the fight against HIV, show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died from the disease.

Berenbaum opened up the panel by saying that people need to challenge the way myths and outdated stereotypes shape notions about HIV. For many, the stigma of testing HIV positive is a deterrent from getting tested. She noted that worldwide trends show that many people

who get tested for HIV never pick up their results. “For a lot of people, the benefits of getting tested do not outweigh the costs because in testing HIV positive, some people have a much bigger risk to their lives from the person who is angry about it [than] to the actual AIDS,” Berenbaum said. However, testing remains a vital part of addressing HIV from the start.

“HIV falls into the larger public health problem of individuals needing to change behavior,” Berenbaum said.

She also expressed hope that the issue of HIV infection would be addressed on a global level. “Globally, what I personally would love to see is separating sex from other objectives,” she said. “We need to get rid of rape as a weapon of war. We need to get rid of human trafficking. The vast majority of pornography people enjoy is from sexual slaves. The people who are appearing in this pornography are subjected to HIV risk all the time,” she continued.

Moeller, whose research at New York University focused on HIV infection in black and Latino communities, articulated that the U.S. is in a major health crisis regarding HIV/AIDS. “The people who are most impacted by this are young [14-24] gay and bisexual men of color,” he said. He noted that the common belief that gay or bisexual men wear condoms less than heterosexual men do is false. The issue then lies in the smaller pool of potential partners that is experiencing higher rates of HIV infection.

“For gay men, the idea that sex can lead to death is a real-

SEE GLOBEMED, PAGE 2

TOWN BYLAW TARGETS OFF-CAMPUS PARTIES

By Caroline Agsten
News Editor

On Dec. 6 the town of Middlebury’s adopted ordinance concerning rental houses, apartments and the control of public nuisances went into effect. Associate Dean of Students for Residential and Student Life Douglas Adams notified all off-campus residents in an email the following day.

According to Adams, the town addressed experiences where student occupants of rental locations were chronically and excessively disruptive in Middlebury neighborhoods. Some of these instances have led to visits by the town police and contributed to the motion to create the new town policy.

“In the spirit of this ordinance, we ask that you remember to be sensitive to the potential impact you will have on the people who live nearby,” Adams said in the email. “Living in the community requires work and an understanding that what you do will impact people who have different work schedules, noise tolerance and expectations of behaviors than a typical college student,” he continued.

The new policy states that previous other laws and ordinances do not adequately control “chronic unlawful or nuisance activity or its detrimental effect on the community where such chronic activity occurs.”

The ordinance stipulates that the fourth or more separate noise violations occurring on the same property within a 180-day period is deemed as a public nuisance. A violation will be issued if loud noise occurs after 10 p.m. on weekdays and after 1 a.m. on weekdays, although complaints may be made before these times. The initial occurrence of a public nuisance on a property is a violation of the ordinance and may be punishable as a first offense with a fine.

In the email, Adams provided tips to foster better relationships between students who live off campus and their respective neighborhoods. In addition to better communication among all community members, he also reminded students to be responsible for any parties before and after they occur.

“I think it’s important to reinforce that students living off campus have to uphold certain expectations,” Greer Howard ’16 said. “We’re a part of the community, our neighbors aren’t all on the same schedules, and we need to be cognizant of those differences.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL CRUISES IN HOME OPENER



MICHAEL BORENSTEIN

Zach Baines was one of four panthers in double digits on Tuesday as Men’s Basketball cruised to a 96-74 win over Castleton in their home opener. The team is in action again on Saturday against Plattsburgh St.

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SGA UPDATE

By Tess Weitzner
SGA Correspondent &
Staff Writer

SGA President Ilana Gratch '16 began the Nov. 15 meeting with the results of the Eat Real survey about dining options. Of the 800 students who responded, 92 percent were in support of reaching the goal of 50 percent "real food" served on campus by 2020. ("Real food" is defined as meeting at one of the following criteria: local, humane, ecologically sound and fair).

Gratch also announced that 10 o'clock Ross will be terminated if students continue to steal food items such as large cereal bags. She reminded the group, tea and coffee are not served as a safety precaution against hot water burns.

Senators discussed ways to incorporate a student voice into the presentation on student mental health that was held on Wednesday Dec. 2 at in Wilson Hall.

On the topic of mental health, senators also acknowledged an inconsistent and sometimes unhelpful approach to stress voiced by professors. They cited personal experiences and anecdotes from friends and peers. Gratch announced that she will discuss these concerns with President Patton during their next monthly meeting.

Speaker of the Senate Reshma Gogineni '16 opened the discussion to the reshaping of MiddCourses such that professors could offer input on the structure of the class and their teaching philosophy. Gogineni will be working with Director of Technology Dana Silver '16 and anticipates the challenge of advertising the feature to professors and convincing them to participate.

Senators explored ways to bolster the CCT's relationship with the student body and improve first-year students' awareness of the CCI as a resource. Senators discussed the possibility of a Winter Term or first-year seminar workshop that would help students explore career interests and connect to alumni. Senators also cited the challenge of integrating the CCT's function with the liberal arts philosophy.

Finally, Gratch updated SGA on the status of the AAL distribution requirement reform proposal. The new requirement would be renamed "Critical Perspectives" and would allow students to choose to study several different regions of the world. The administration will vote in January. If it passes, the restructured requirement will be piloted by first-year students in fall 2017. However, senators voiced a push to implement the change sooner, noting that the most significant obstacle is the manpower required to label all classes on Banner-Web.

At the meeting on Nov. 22, senators voted to pass a bill sponsored by Gogineni that would allocate \$99 from SGA's budget to cover the first year's subscription fee to publish a MiddRides app on the app store. The app will be available for students in January 2016. MiddRides is described in the bill as necessary for students to travel safely across campus during winter, but currently unreliable, due to low staffing. The app will increase efficiency by allowing students to submit their locations to the driver's assistants and receive feedback when the van is approaching their location.

Senators voted to table a bill that would extend the drop deadline and the invocation of the Pass/D/Fail option to eight weeks and the revocation of the Pass/D/Fail option to 12 weeks. The two week add period would not be changed. Survey results indicated that few students would take advantage of the extended deadlines, but they believe the policy change would alleviate stress. Faculty will discuss the policy on Dec. 11 and 15 and will vote to continue or cancel the Pass/D/Fail option in January.

There was a motion to table a resolution recommendation that would prompt further conversations on increasing campus accessibility, especially in the Ridgeline Apartments. The recommendation, sponsored by Community Council Co-Chair Tiff Chang '17.5, Wonnacott Senator Lisa Han '16, and Sophomore Senator Jin Sohn '18, would also encourage discussions about inclusion not only as it applies to physical disabilities, but "cognitive, learning and other disabilities diagnosed and undiagnosed," as written in the bill.

"The Grid" Focuses on Mental Health

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for administrators to base their solutions on student input rather than on their anecdotal or outdated perceptions of student stress.

"I am encouraged that three senior level administrators spent the entire summer addressing issues relating to stress in the student body," Gratch said.

At the forum, Gratch gathered responses and suggestions from student attendees, which she will compile in a briefing and send to Smith Abbott, Lloyd and Fernández. She said the SGA will also conduct a survey during winter term asking about perspectives and experiences related to stress at Middlebury.

"I look forward to compiling the student input we received at the forum for administrators so the proposals can incorporate students' ideas, too," she continued.

Some commented on the low number of student attendees at the forum. One student suggested that students were too stressed about their academic work to show up. When the attendees broke into small groups to reflect on the presentation, many were dismayed that few solutions in the plan dealt with academics.

"Almost everyone in my small group was frustrated that 'slow learning' came up once in the presentation," Vankina said. "The other prevalent issues of diversity and inclusivity and health are piled onto an already existing issue in the classroom, this rapid form of learning. No one is internalizing anything they learn."

During a question-and-answer period, one student stood up and said that if he received one extension on a paper, "that would do more to solve his stress than any of these proposals combined."

Marie Vasitas '18 said that stress is largely self-imposed by students.

"We need to learn how to deal with the stresses of the real world, because the world is not going to adapt to us," she said. "Once we leave Middlebury, there won't be opportunities to have conversations about how we can make the world less stressful. I think that's something that you have to do on your own, and that's part of the learning experience."

One student suggested that students and faculty "take breaks for what they are," specifically fall and Thanksgiving breaks. "Not having work over break, not piling up work before and after break, and actually reevaluating what a break means would help so much."

Another student lamented the lack of traditions on campus.

"There are traditions within certain groups on campus, but there's no one unifying tradition," she said. "Even a homecoming dance. How many people actually go to Winter Carnival?"

Kathryn Morse, chair of the history department, said the conversation that occurred at the stress forum was thoughtful and showcased multiple points of view.

"The overall bottom line seemed to be that there is too much to do with too little time," she said. "Students have been saying there's too much academic work here for years. In response, faculty often suggest that students might be overcommitting themselves beyond the classroom. The question might be, How does our culture pressure students to want to do so many things at once?"

Morse also said that there are too many talks offered each day.

"Perhaps limiting the number of talks across the institution to one per day would reduce stress. Students and faculty seem to have too many talks and obligations to go to — there's just too much going on."

Tiffany Chang '17.5, co-chair of Community Council, expressed excitement for Gratch's work with the forum and with the upcoming survey. "It will be beneficial to the conversation to hear the opinions of students en masse," she said. "I would also like to see the solutions focus more on faculty and staff stress, which Community Council has been discussed this semester. All of us — students, faculty, and staff — live and work on campus together, and all our stresses affect one another."

Matthew Gillis '18 expressed concern about the way Middlebury markets itself.

"People feel deceived about having come here when they see institutional and social forms of racism and classism" he said. "It is disheartening to realize how

many students are accepted from similarly privileged areas each year and how the way you present yourself in admissions can, in many cases, immediately divide, shape and burden your experience. When the college annually boasts how each class is more brilliant, more diverse, and ultimately more 'perfect' each year, you internalize the surrounding imperfections you see—and begin to doubt the ability to be perfect yourself."

"I think being honest, sharing why you feel a certain way, why you hold a certain view or why you're having a tough time is so important. Many times I stay silent instead of admitting ignorance or slap on a smile when I'm feeling down. We can't be afraid of making mistakes, appearing vulnerable, revealing ignorance, or showing that we aren't perfect people, because this is how will eventually help us learn and reform ourselves and our stress," he concluded.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL UPDATE

By Nick Garber
Community Council
Correspondent &
Staff Writer

On Monday, Dec. 7, Community Council held its final meeting of the fall semester.

Student Co-Chair Tiff Chang '17.5 began by noting that the Student Government Association recently passed two recommendations — an extension of the add/drop deadline and an extension of the Pass/D/Fail option — which both grew out of discussions originally held in Community Council about academic stress.

The council then considered the recent campus-wide discussions on cultural appropriation and inclusivity. Several members shared that they were supportive of the most recent Town Hall meeting, but wished that it could have been held in a larger venue and at a more convenient time of day, since many potential dissenting voices seemed absent from the discussion.

Public Safety Telecom Manager and Tech Support Specialist Solon Coburn noted, however, that the problem of an insufficiently large venue was "a good problem to have."

Some faculty members on the Council shared their disappointment that students seemed hesitant to turn to professors to discuss issues of race and class, particularly professors who study those very topics.

Additionally, the question was raised of whether Community Council should begin to tackle those issues, especially in light of student protests at Yale University and the University of Missouri. Members generally agreed that such subjects would probably be best addressed within larger topics that the Council plans to review later in the academic year.

The Council had planned to end Monday's meeting — the culmination of a semester-long focus on stress — by formulating an official recommendation to President of the College Laurie L. Patton. However, several staff members stated that they felt uncomfortable forming a recommendation primarily on academic stress — a subject about which they have little knowledge. Furthermore, some members pointed out that the Community Council's charter specifies that it must address only non-academic issues.

"I'm wondering if there needs to be a conversation about what we're allowed to do and whether that needs to change, in the wording of the way we were chartered as a body," Ethan Brady '18 said.

In the end, the Council agreed that the best option would likely be the creation of a smaller task force focusing specifically on stress. This task force would be given a list of specific issue areas generated by Community Council, each of which would be categorized as either a short-term, mid-term or long-term goal.

GlobeMed, Chellis House Host World AIDS Day Talk

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ity," Moeller said. "I have never in my life met a gay man who was not afraid of HIV. The fear certainly exists."

The panel addressed current medical treatment of HIV. While in the past the common medication for possible HIV infection was curative — to be taken after having unprotected sex with someone who was HIV positive — the current model of medication is preventative. "The problem with this is the issue of access and treatment," Moeller said. He cited that only one in three doctors knows about pre-exposure prophylaxis, the new HIV prevention strategy that uses anti-retrovirals to reduce risk of infection.

Transmission rates of the infection are much lower than common belief dictates. For one sexual encounter between a person with HIV and one without, the rate of transmission is 1/1000. With antiretroviral therapy, this rate is reduced by 70 to 90 percent. Adherence to treatment is thus considered very important. Resistance to the therapies can occur when the full dosage is not observed and the benefit of reduction of transmission rate does not occur.

"When people receive HIV positive tests, some of them will go out and have more unprotected sex because the cost goes down," Gong said. He emphasized the need for treatment after diagnosis to improve the welfare of the infected person and because it prevents transmission of the infection.

"One of the things that economists have been looking at in terms of changing sexual behaviors is known as conditional cash transfers (CCTs) — you do something and we'll pay you," Gong said. With this method, individuals would receive vouchers when they showed up for treatment or extra incentive for fully completing treatment with additional money.

Gong also focused on the presence of HIV and AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa where he conducted most of his research.

"The puzzle is this: rates of HIV are much higher in Sub-Saharan Africa," he said. "But if you look at the number of sexual partners between the average person in the United States versus Sub-Saharan Africa, they're about the same."

HIV/AIDS affects 33 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to Gong, vaccines are not available because large pharmaceutical companies in the United States are not addressing it. To encourage the production, economists suggest advance market commitment, or the "if you make it, we'll buy it" approach.

"It's not really about, 'Let's change the message,' or 'Let's figure out the right wording to get people to use condoms,'" Moeller said. "What I think we really need is a vaccine and a cure, both of which we are very far away from attaining simply because we just don't know enough."

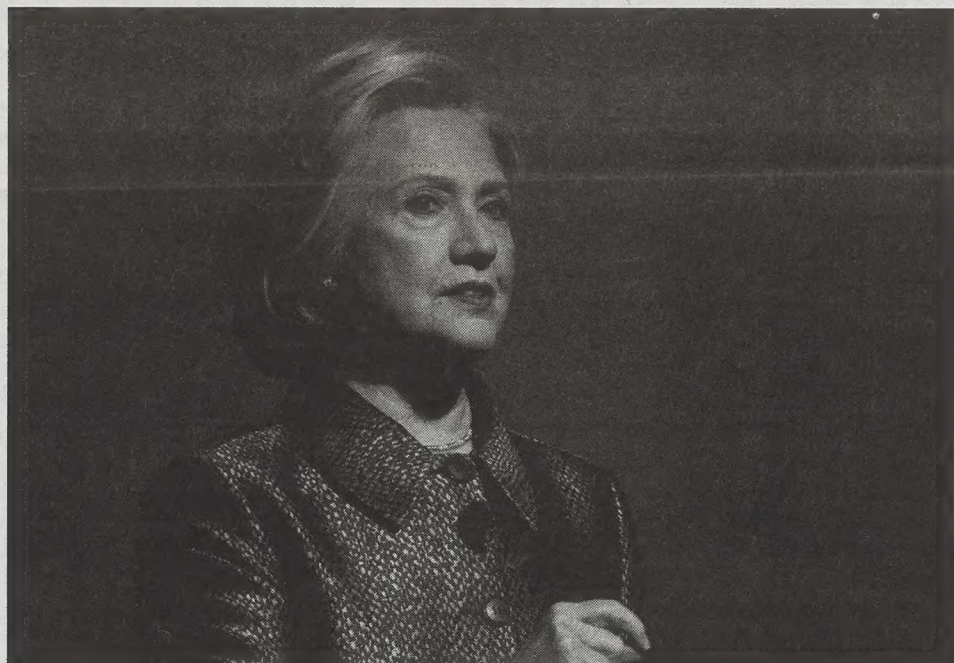
Residents Weigh in on Presidential Candidates

By Nick Garber and Harry Cramer
Contributing Writer and Local Editor

With the presidential election less than a year away, and primaries for both parties even closer, the *Campus* sought on Sunday to take stock of local residents' opinions. The following interviews are an anecdotal glimpse into an electorate that is decidedly Democratic, but still grapples with the feasibility of their Senator, Bernie Sanders, as a viable candidate.

Of the two dozen respondents, twelve voiced their support for Sanders, six prefer Hillary Clinton and three had yet to make up their mind between Sanders and Clinton. Only three respondents were planning to vote for a Republican candidate, two of whom preferred Chris Christie.

The concern over Sanders' viability has been confirmed elsewhere: In September, Castleton Polling Institute found that although 48 percent of Vermonters hoped to see Sanders elected president, only 27 percent think he will win. In contrast, 46 percent of respondents think Clinton will win.



COURTESY BUSINESS INSIDER

Hillary Clinton (D) received support from those who prioritize foreign policy and experience.

Barbara Merz epitomized this precarious position. "Even though we might be told that it's a waste to vote for [Sanders], I'm going to. It's just a primary," she added, "so I'll vote for whose positions I agree with and in the presidential, I'll vote for whoever the Democratic winner is."

Elizabeth Kerwick expressed a similar sentiment: "I think probably, as far as issues go, I'm more aligned with Bernie. Also, my goal is to see a Democrat as president."

Another resident's somewhat contradictory opinion was particularly humorous: "You could put me down for Sanders," he said. "But I just don't think he'd make a very good president."

Not all residents were as skeptical. Mary-Ann Deverell said she was voting for Bernie Sanders. "I think his grass-

roots campaign has really spread. ... I think he's true to who he is, and has always had the same expectations for our country."

Pierre Vachon felt similarly. "I think it's time for a change and I think Bernie Sanders is the right guy for it," he said. "I think his policies are more progressive and have a better chance for helping America than a lot of the other candidates, currently."

Most residents agreed with this assessment. Courtney Krahn, for example, lauded Sanders' progressive stance on universal health care and higher education, but was unsure of his position on guns.

"Maybe other candidates are stronger on gun control," she acknowl-

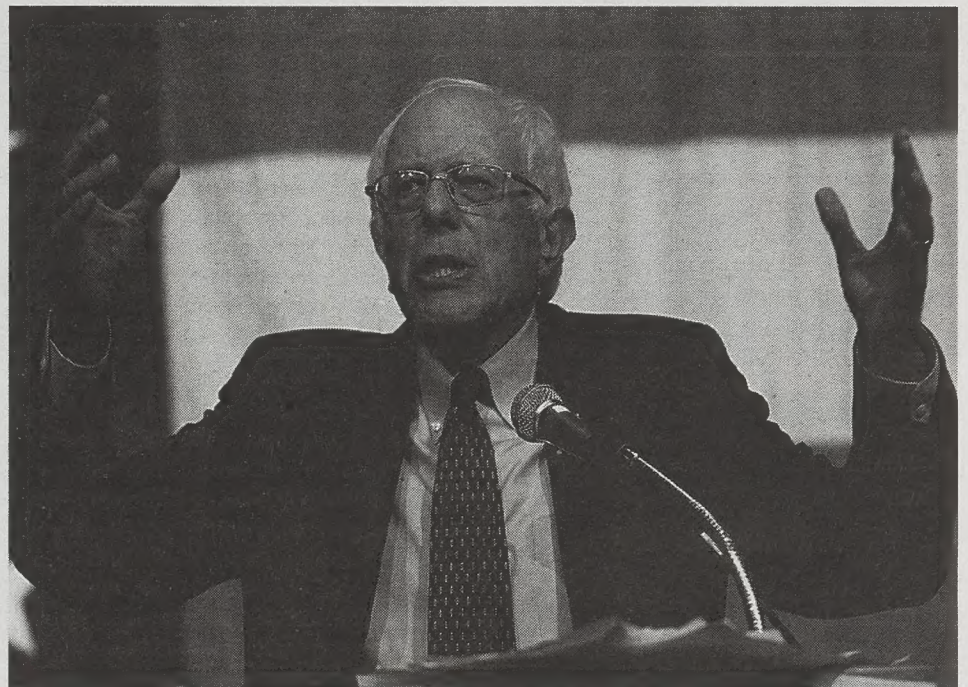
edged. "But maybe he has a more realistic view of it? I don't know."

"Gun control I feel is really on the forefront of my mind," replied another resident, when asked about the issue that concerns her most.

Arguably, however, Sanders' most attractive feature is his consistent and unrelenting focus on political corruption and wealth inequality.

"[Republicans] just propagate more violence and more hate. So I'm looking for the opposite of that – the propagation of well-being."

LOCAL MIDDLEBURY RESIDENT



COURTESY PRESSCISEARZ

Bernie Sanders (D) is projected to win Vermont, but faces doubts about his viability nationally.

life," said another local resident, "but I'll tell you, Bernie Sanders, he is what he is."

Pierre Vachon noted that Sanders' success may not hinge upon his policies as a candidate, but on the amount of media coverage he receives.

"Part of the issue is he gets kind of pushed aside, but he has a strong grassroots campaign so I think the popular vote could go to him pretty easily," he said. "If he can get through the primary and actually be the Democratic candidate, I think he has a very strong chance."

Those who expressed their support for Hillary Clinton tended to emphasize her experience in government and her foreign policy credentials.

"I think [Clinton] has got the most experience and I like her international views on the world," said one woman. "[Bernie's] a good guy – educated – but in the world arena, I think he's lacking in experience, where Hillary has had experience. I like her views on things. Especially as a woman."

Nonetheless, she noted, "Bernie would be my second choice – I'd love to see them as President-Vice President in a perfect world."

"The two biggest issues for me as a voter are the economy and foreign policy," said another Clinton supporter, "and I think that's where Hillary comes out as a winner." This voter was optimistic about Clinton's electoral chances, but noted that "the two most viable candidates to threaten her in terms of actually winning an election are Jeb Bush and Marco Rubio."

Yet the few surveyed Republicans expressed a preference not for Bush or Rubio, but for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie. One appreciated his emphasis on "law and order," while another, Jim Hunter, cited Christie's ability to govern a mostly-Democratic state.

"[It] tells me that he can manage to please both sides of the aisle," Hunter said. "As a President, you need to be able to make the majority of the people somewhat happy."

While initially cautioning that Donald Trump is "a little too crazy," Hunter conceded that he admires Trump's focus on illegal immigration. Many recent immigrants, Hunter said, "have no idea what America's based on – they just see free stuff."

Prior waves of immigrants who came through Ellis Island, he asserted, were subjected to more tests, which Hunter feels should be reinstated. "The country was built on immigrants, so I have no problem with that," he said. "It's control that I care about."

However, the majority of residents were harshly critical of Trump's policies, with many agreeing that a Trump victory would be the worst possible outcome of the 2016 elections.

"A Trump presidency would be the very worst case scenario," said Barbara Merz, "but I 100 percent don't believe that that will happen."

Another resident concurred: "I don't think the presidency should be a reality TV show."

Indeed, despite some disagreement about the Democratic primary, most residents seemed unified in their animosity towards the entire Republican field.

"[Republicans] just propagate more violence and more hate," said one resident. "So I'm looking for the opposite of that—the propagation of well-being."

Ultimately, both statewide polling and anecdotal evidence point to Sanders winning his home state of Vermont in the Democratic primary. The question remains, however, whether sentiment regarding Sanders' viability as a candidate, expressed even in Vermont, will affect his performance nationally.

"I don't think the presidency should be a reality TV show."

LOCAL RESIDENT

"I'm naturally a Republican, but I'm looking at Bernie Sanders as the best candidate right now. You're either on state aid or extremely wealthy – the middle class is a lost party. So that's kind of where he hit home for me."

JAMIE SHELDON

INGRID

"As much as I would like to support Bernie Sanders - I think he's phenomenal - I just don't know if he would take it all the way."

"I think Bernie's strongest issue is the idea that one percent of our country has such a high percentage of our wealth," said the same resident concerned with gun violence, "and the idea that there is really no middle class. We're struggling; or not."

Surprisingly, this strategy has even allowed Sanders, running to the left of Hillary Clinton, to draw support from across the aisle.

"I'm naturally a Republican," said Jamie Sheldon, "but I'm looking at Bernie Sanders as the best candidate right now. I really like his

platform about growing the middle class, because I am middle class. You're either on state aid or you're extremely wealthy – the middle class is a lost party. So that's where he's kind of hit home with me."

"I've been a Republican my whole

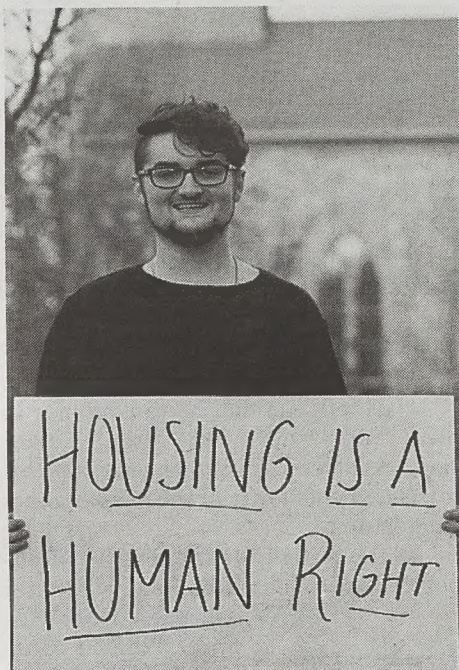
Sleep-Out Helps Combat Homelessness in VT

By Annie Grayer
Local Editor

On Saturday, Dec. 5 the John Graham Shelter in Vergennes hosted its second annual sleep-out at the foot of Otter Creek Falls near Marbleworks.

The fundraising event raised over \$35,000, which surpassed last year's total of \$30,000. All of the money raised will go directly into helping homeless individuals find housing.

Last year, approximately 40 people



COURTESY YEAGER "TEDDY" ANDERSON

Dan Adamek '18 works part time at the John Graham Shelter and helped plan the event.

participated in the event. This year, the number of participants was nearly 70.

Elizabeth Ready, Director of the John Graham Shelter articulated the importance of this event.

"The event is to bring awareness to the problem that so many of our neighbors have," Ready began. "We are talking about families with children, we are talking about individuals, we are talking about people of all ages."

Dan Adamek '18, who works part time at the John Graham Shelter as a service coordinator and serves on the shelter's board of directors, echoed Ready's sentiments.

"I think that a lot of people are just unaware that there is a homelessness problem in Vermont," Adamek said.

Adamek pointed out that living in a rural area is part of the reason such unawareness exists.

"I think to a lot of people, especially in rural areas, homelessness can be very invisible because it's very easy to not see homelessness in places where people are so spread out."

In addition to helping raise awareness, Ready emphasized how the event gives participants perspective.

"When you think that we're only here for one night, whereas other people face uncertainty every night, it puts the situation in context," Ready said.

Personally, Ready said the event helps her think twice about how she responds to those who call the shelter in need.

"Sometimes I thought 'oh well, we're full, let us take down your name and number,' and now I feel like 'oh, yeah we are full, but let's see what we can do.'"

On how this event can help bring perspective to the College's community specifically, Adamek said, "we live in such a privileged bubble on top of a hill, at an institution that has a lot of money concentrated in one place. But there are so many people around us who are working poor and working class people who are either homeless or on the brink of homelessness."

Ready was quick to point out the gap between wages and housing costs as to why she believes Vermont has seen a spike in homelessness in the last five years.

"Bottom line," Ready said, "most of the people at the shelter are working." Guests come to the John Graham Shelter who work at grocery stores, nursing homes, farms, convenience stores, and other jobs because their wages are not keeping pace with the cost of housing.

Ready addressed how the John Graham Shelter has tried to deal with the growing demand for its services and the chronic problem that persists from the state having a high cost of living.

"What we try to do at the John Graham Shelter is we try to figure out some answer to the economic riddle by helping people get vouchers, helping people get benefits, helping people advance their income [and doing] whatever it takes," Ready said.

The sleep out event began at 4 p.m. with a candlelight vigil on the green in town.

Diane Lanpher, Representative (D) of Vergennes, spoke about her experience doing the sleep-out last year and her role in the fight to end homelessness.

"It was a very cold night, but it was an eye-opening experience," Lanpher said, recalling her sleep-out experience.

Specifically, Lanpher explains, "I had a lot of things that you don't necessarily have. I didn't fear for my safety that night. There were people around. We had access to a bathroom that most people wouldn't."

Lanpher recounts waking up at 4 o'clock and shivering in the bathroom because it was the only warm place she could find.

"I had to ask myself in the mirror," Lanpher began, "would I be able to prepare to go to a job interview in two hours? Would I be prepared to go and find services that day?"

Thus, Lanpher stated, "people in that situation need our help, to give them the step up ... we need to do the wrap around services, not just finding a place, but put-



COURTESY ANNIE GRAYER

At 4 p.m., the John Graham Shelter hosted a vigil on the green in town to kick off the sleep-

ting everything else that they need in place."

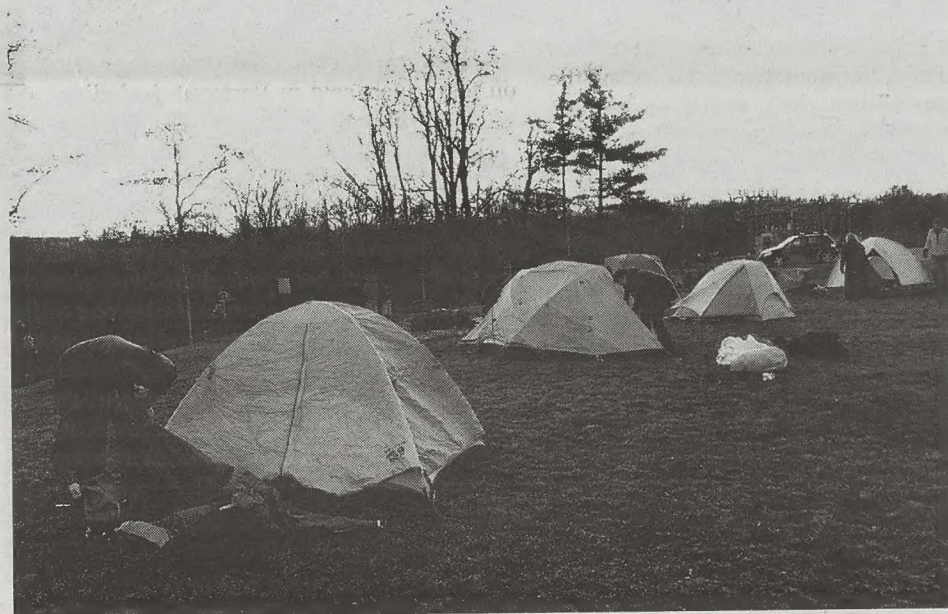
Kesha Ram, Representative (D) of Chittenden, who is currently running for Lieutenant Governor, also spoke to those attending the vigil.

Put simply, Ram stated, "we have too many homeless Vermonters."

To expose the severity of the situation, Ram stated, "right now we have peo-

"We have to turn the conversation around and remember that everyone deserves to have the dignity of being housed, of being supportive, or just having a warm place to stay," Ram said.

Furthermore, Ram urged her audience to remember "anyone who is homeless is someone who has a family, had a family, deserves dignity, deserves somewhere warm to stay, deserves friendship



COURTESY ANNIE GRAYER

Participants of the sleep out set up their tents at the foot of Otter Creek Falls in Marbleworks.

ple who sit in prison because they can't get housing on the outside."

Ram shared the first-hand experience she acquired while working as the legal director for Women Helping Battered Women before she entered municipal government.

"We watched so many families struggle to find access to housing, whether it was for one night or in the long term," Ram said.

Ram also discussed the work she has done since joining the legislature and her work on the housing committee with Lanpher and others the last three years.

"A lot of our programs are not built well to support families and individuals as they transition," Ram explained.

"We've sought to advance a lot of new and creative solutions in trying to create more access to supportive, service rich housing," Ram continued.

As an example, Ram detailed how the committee has sought to allocate money spent on motels, which create an isolating housing experience, towards housing that is supported by housing trusts or into services from other organizations.

In her closing remarks, Ram spoke about the need to view homelessness as a human right.

and breaking the silence of the isolation of homelessness."

Participants of the event expressed their passion and connection to the issue of homelessness.

For Fernanda Canales, principal of Salisbury Community Schools, and her husband, Chad Chamberlain, a teacher at Salisbury Community Schools, this was their first sleep out.

"I think we encounter families who are in this situation time and time again, and I just felt like I wanted to experience it," Canales explained as to why they chose to participate.

Chamberlain agreed with his wife and also added that he felt that families in his community who were either homeless or struggling with homelessness neglected to reach out for support.

Canales agreed by saying: "A lot of times there is a stigma, they don't want us to know that they are living under certain circumstances."

Bringing awareness to the issue and approaching the situation with empathy, as the John Graham Shelter is committed to doing, will help Vermonters become more invested in the cause and learn how to deal with the issues more directly.

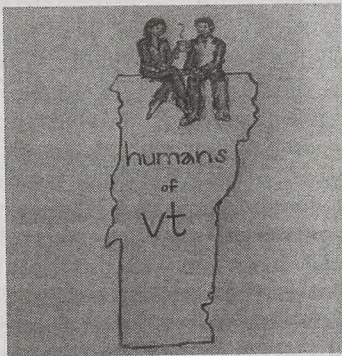


COURTESY YEAGER "TEDDY" ANDERSON

Elizabeth Ready, Director of the John Graham Shelter, addressed those who attended the vigil.

The North End Honeys: The Beginnings of a Band

By Wendy Walcoff
Contributing Writer



We met Erin and Hannah, co-founders of the North End Honeys, in Bristol in October. They had just finished playing a set at a harvest fair, an upbeat and self-defined “screaming honky tonk” duo with crooning harmonies and smooth strummed guitars. We stopped to chat as the two blonde friends started to pack up their van. They kindly propped open their back door with a lone crutch and welcomed us into conversation.

The North End Honeys is a relatively recent group and started playing together in Burlington just about six months ago. Hannah had heard Erin playing at a local spot and said she knew that they had to play together. When they finally started to make music, it all unfolded rather quickly.

“We didn’t know each other, but we

were like, ‘Let’s go on tour!’ That was the first thing we said! And it’s actually happening now and it’s just so weird because we weren’t friends at all. It was like the friendship music relationship of going on a first date with someone and saying ‘We’re getting married—it’s gonna be sick!’” Erin laughed, nudging Hannah, who gave a smirk in return.

The duo had to develop depth faster than most friendships in order to sing, write and drive for days on end together. “We definitely did everything about this pretty backwards,” Hannah added. “We’re complete opposites and we rushed into it not knowing. I didn’t know how his brain worked, and he didn’t know about mine.”

The two also both articulated the importance of having music as the center of their bond.

“All of my closest friends are probably due to music, Hannah being one of them,” Erin said. “And for me, performing is one of the only times when my brain is calm.”

Hannah nodded, agreeing as she expanded on Erin’s ideas, “It’s one of the only things that I really love and I know it’s not going anywhere. Cause you can love somebody and they can leave, or you can love certain things and they can break, but I’m going to be able to play music forever.”

Sitting in the back of their van, one could see the history of their band building amidst the clutter of papers and stack of guitar cases.



WENDY WALCOFF

Hannah (left) and Erin (right) formed their band, The North End Honeys, six months ago.

We noticed how they worked together in dialogue, supporting each other through playful banter and more serious musings.

It was clear that Hannah and Erin are two songwriters learning to write on a page together, rather than try to pull the other onto his or her own. “We’re balancing it out,” Erin explained. “We’re pushing each other to grow a little bit in the ways we haven’t worked on so much. This sounds

kind of cliché or whatever, but Hannah’s pushing me to move a little faster and I’m teaching her to slow down a little bit. I think we have a really good thing going on.”

As we listened, we found lessons of true collaboration, finding humor in the little things and not being afraid to get up and go for it. Needless to say, the Honeys had our hearts. So, look out for this dynamic duo; they’re coming to Middlebury in January!

Vermont Engages with Paris Climate Talks

By Alessandria Schumacher
Local Editor

Although Vermont is over 3,000 miles from Paris, Vermonters are not letting the distance silence their voices on climate change action. Since the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference began in Paris last week, Vermonters have been engaged in many capacities. Some rallied locally, others went to the State House, and still others, including Governor Peter Shumlin, were invited to speak in Paris.

Right here in Middlebury, 55 to 60 people gathered in Triangle Park on Saturday, Nov. 28, just two days before the start of the Paris climate summit. People attended this rally from as far away as Montpelier and Waitsfield, hoping to send the message that people are watching and expecting results from the climate summit in Paris. They held signs with phrases such as “Middlebury Vermont Supports Paris Climate Talks” and “Climate Justice Now!”

One more elaborate sign read, “This pump temporarily closed because Exxon-Mobil lied about climate (#exxonknew).” The protestor was referring to the exposé this fall, when Exxon-Mobil intentionally funded climate change deniers and hid company research supporting climate change in the mid-1980s.

On Monday, Nov. 30, a coalition of environmental groups gathered at the State House in Montpelier to deliver 180 boxes—containing 25,241 postcards—from supporters of carbon tax in Vermont. Organizers of this event planned for it to coincide with the start of the Paris climate talks, seizing the international event as a catalyst for state-level climate action.

“Our thoughts are with the global leaders who are making important decisions for all of us. But we can’t leave all the work to them. We have to do our share also,” said Fran Putnam, the chairwoman of the Weybridge Energy Committee and a member of

Energy Independent Vermont.

Last year, legislators in the House introduced “carbon tax” bills, proposing a tax on fossil fuels sold in Vermont, including gasoline, oil and natural gas. The bill has met strong opposition from both sides of the aisle.

Republican Chairman David Sunderland believes that the carbon tax bill shows that Democrats in Vermont are “profoundly disconnected with the realities of struggling Vermonters.” Opponents of the tax also point out that a carbon tax will cost the consumer the same amount, regardless of income, and will not affect the producers of fossil fuels. The tax could raise gas prices by 88 cents over the next 10 years. Proponents of the tax insist that a carbon tax could mean lower sales tax on other items.

The proposed carbon tax bill calls for a tax on fossil fuels and the creation of an Energy Independence Fund, which would help subsidize home weatherization, solar panels and air source heat pumps. The program would also create jobs in the process.

PETER SHUMLIN
GOVERNOR OF VERMONT

On Dec. 3, about 150 people attended a debate on the carbon tax. The debate pitted Paul Burns, executive director of Vermont Public Interest Research Group (VPIRG), and Professor John Erickson, from University of Vermont’s Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources, against Rob Roper and John McClaghry, President and Vice President of the Ethan Allen Institute. The institute is “Vermont’s free-market public policy research and education organization,” according to their website.

Don Randall, President and CEO of Vermont Gas, issued a statement expressing support for climate action in Paris. He explained that increased use of natural gas in Vermont has cut carbon emissions.

“The decline in U.S. carbon emissions has been attributable largely to the displacement of higher-emitting fuels by natu-



COURTESY ADDISON INDEPENDENT

Climate action supporters gather to show their support for productive policy-making in Paris.

ral gas,” said Randall. “Here at home, Vermont gas continues to bring the choice and opportunity of cleaner, more affordable natural gas to more Vermonters,” he said.

He concluded his statement by pledging to “reduce emissions, increase energy efficiency and expand alternatives such as renewable gas from landfills and dairies.”

Vermonters’ engagement with the Paris climate talks is not confined within state boundaries. Governor Shumlin himself is attending the Paris climate talks as a panelist to discuss Vermont’s renewable energy plans.

“The White House had reached out to us to talk about what states are doing to make a difference,” Shumlin said. “Vermont’s got a great story to tell.”

On Dec. 2, Shumlin was on a panel called “The Subnational (State and Provincial) Foundation for Action” hosted by the Georgetown Climate Center. The panel included other leaders from places in North America that are creating clean energy policies, including Quebec, California and Washington.

Shela Liton and Senowa Mize-Fox, representatives of the Vermont Workers Center in Brattleboro and Burlington, are also attending the Paris climate talks. Linton and Mize-Fox are part of the 100-plus person delegation called “It Takes Roots to Weather the Storm,” a collection of grass-

roots leaders from dozens of communities in the U.S. and Canada that have been impacted by climate change.

“From Paris to Montpelier, we’re seeing politicians push false solutions to climate change like fracking and carbon trading,” Mize-Fox said in a news release. “We need to recognize the leadership and strategies coming from social movements at the grassroots, who understand the interconnections between racial, gender, economic and climate justice and are calling for system change, not climate change.”

Lastly, as the Paris climate summit comes to a close, Vermonters will fill five buses reserved by 350Vermont and head to Boston on Dec. 5. There they will participate in a rally “to call for bold climate solutions that create jobs, justice and climate action together,” Central Vermont Climate Action stated in a press release.

While the Paris climate talks are a good catalyst for international climate action, the negotiations will by no means result in a comprehensive solution or an end point.

“As the United Nations Climate Conference closes in Paris,” Central Vermont Climate Action’s press release states, “we know we will need to keep building a massive grassroots movement for real climate solutions to move away from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.”

OPINIONS

The Middlebury Campus

To say cultural appropriation is a challenging topic to address in a way that does justice to all perspectives would be an understatement. We cannot resolve

EDITORIAL

The editorial represents the official opinion of the editorial board of *The Middlebury Campus*.

We will fail to engage perfectly or properly. But we will make a compassionate attempt to engage on this issue and offer our thoughts as an editorial board, not because it is easy to do, or because a resolution can

The Middlebury Campus

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A Call for Compassion

be found in 1,000 words, but because it is our responsibility to try. And that is the sentiment that we wish to convey in this piece; as a community, sometimes we must address difficult, painful topics with weighty historical legacies, and when we do, we hope to address these issues with compassion.

We must begin by asserting that cultural appropriation is real. That fact is not up for debate. While people of every race can appropriate, the harm is greater when those with the most power do so. This, due to the historical legacy of racism, means white people. Regardless of the intentions of the student who donned a sombrero in Proctor, Middlebury serves as a venue through which nationwide systematic racism may play out in many ways, cultural appropriation being one such way.

As a current-day American presidential candidate – one who is leading in the polls for the Republican nomination – asserts, “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best... They’re rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.” Donald Trump’s comments illustrate that this issue is not about a hat – it’s about the history of mistreatment of marginalized cultures. The issue of cultural appropriation is now at the forefront of (many of) our minds. Students have spoken up and the administration has facilitated those conversations. Town hall meetings have been held. Many students attended, though many more did not.

We have begun to engage, and that engagement is critical. Although it is

important to “engage,” we must ask ourselves – “in what way?” One incident with one student and a sombrero has come to represent the issue of cultural appropriation on our campus. By honing in on this one individual, we are pinning the culpability for racism at Middlebury on one person when many of us – the institution included – are to blame.

Some members of our community have proven unwilling to engage at all, dismissing the topic as trite or insignificant. We ask these students to question the foundation of their convictions. The students whom the town hall meetings would benefit the most are the ones who are perhaps least likely to attend. Our community must learn how to not be racist rather than simply how to not appear racist. This task is not a chore; it is a vital and overdue opportunity. In the *New York Times Magazine* article “White Debt,” Eula Biss writes, “A guilty white person is usually imagined as someone made impotent by guilt, someone rendered powerless. But why not imagine guilt as a prod, a goad, an impetus to action?” White students can engage with challenging issues – including cultural appropriation and systemic racism – in a way that facilitates the creation of a more just and equitable society. We would go so far as to assert that they must.

We have all heard the argument that free speech gives students the right to appropriate. We feel compelled to bring up the difference between what one can do and what one should do. As Jelani Cobb said in an article in the

New Yorker entitled “Race and the Free-Speech Diversion”, “This is where the arguments about the freedom of speech become most tone deaf. The freedom to offend the powerful is not equivalent to the freedom to bully the relatively disempowered.” While our country enables its individuals to engage in whatever sort of discourse they might like, at an elite, informed institution such as Middlebury, let us hold ourselves to a higher standard of speech – one that respects and acknowledges the power dynamic at play.

When we first started school, we were taught to be kind. Somewhere, in the midst of lofty rhetoric about freedom of speech and microaggressions, that basic lesson was lost. So let’s find it again. We can respect experiences we don’t understand. We can reach out and learn more and admit faults and move forward. We can be kind. Good intentions can be flawed intentions. Inappropriate behavior can come from well intentioned people, but that is not an excuse.

We hope you read the pieces we have quoted – and more, and we hope you attend the town hall meeting this Friday (2:45pm in Mead Chapel.) There are voices – on campus and beyond – that deserve and need to be heard, for they all can inform our understanding of this difficult but crucial issue. We must read and listen with compassion. We must continue to inform ourselves and not let the momentum we have generated die out. We must continue to strive for increased understanding, respect and awareness on our campus.

Pushing Through the Discomfort

I completely stand behind this week’s editorial. Cultural appropriation is real on this campus and the voices of those who have been offended need to be heard and validated. The editorial’s call for increased understanding, empathy and awareness is an important one that hopefully going forward, we as a com-

NOTES FROM THE DESK

Annie Grayer '17.5 is
from Harrison, NY

munity can collectively address.

However, what the editorial fails to acknowledge is how our community should handle and discuss instances of cultural appropriation going forward. To begin with, there is a clear difference between someone who is a racist and an

incident of cultural appropriation, like wearing a sombrero. Although the former is undoubtedly inexcusable, I am suggesting that the latter does not warrant the same treatment. While wearing a sombrero is insensitive, and fails to realize the implications of doing so, it does not inherently make someone racist.

In instances of cultural appropriation, what is most important to acknowledge is that offended parties are completely entitled to their anger. It is not the job of those who feel offended to explain to their offenders why they feel the way they feel and the argument that those who feel offended are overly sensitive should be eliminated from our collective discourse.

However, we need to somehow balance between recognizing the harm done and those affected while also re-

fraining from labeling someone permanently. Pushing the student that we have collectively labeled “sombrero girl” into the periphery of our community will not make the larger issue of cultural appropriation go away. It could even alienate someone to the point where they no longer want to learn from their actions. Those who commit acts of cultural appropriation should feel shame and remorse, but should the also feel shunned? If the goal is to address and eliminate cultural appropriation on this campus, then we must think about what types of conversations will foster the most change and reach the silent, indifferent and negligent voices that we must reach. I think the town hall meeting is a perfect way to facilitate this type of engagement. I hope conversations like these continue.

End the Culture of Doing

One student at the stress forum last Wednesday said that the goal while pursuing a degree at Middlebury is to optimize the experience. That means finding the “perfect” balance between schoolwork, clubs, and social time. It means if I don’t

READER OP-ED

Ethan Brady '18 is
from Bernardsville, NJ

maximize my daily activities, I might lose out on what I could’ve done.

It seems that students here are too concerned with doing to engage in the act of being. It has become all about making deadlines, attending talks, and optimizing our schedules. The search to maximize every aspect of each day becomes an obsessive hobby. We get a rush when we cross

off the next item on our to-do list. It feels good to have things in control.

But soon the task becomes our master. When the measure of a good day in the library is how productive we are, we think of ourselves more as robots than as people. The time we spend on things becomes an equation to be solved. In our search for efficiency we become machine.

When we get caught up in the activities and tasks and things which we can say “I did,” we lose sight of what it means to be here. The residential liberal arts college is a space where shared learning occurs at all hours of the day and all corners of campus. What, then, if we took four years of residency here for what they are? What if we could decide our days’ events not around the tasks we have to do but around the people we wish to see, the meals we wish to have, and the stories we wish to hear? I think then we would be happy.

We students are the most populous part of the community. We are roommates, teammates, and classmates to each other; we are neighbors in the physical makeup of the campus. At its heart, the residential liberal arts college offers a mutual living-learning experience. In our inherent proximity, we have the opportunity to interact and flourish together. We should focus not on doing more but on living with meaning, which comes from community, collaboration, and coexistence.

When we begin to realize each of us is interconnected, when we take ownership of our collective experience and realize our individual gain in doing things is far less meaningful than our collective power in living together, then we have embraced a culture of being. There is no conflict because your living is part of mine. And with that realization, all our individual struggles become one.

After Carbon Neutrality, Climate Justice

So great is the sadness of our times. The recent shootings in Colorado Springs and San Bernadino brought to light a disturbing fact; in the United States this year there have been more days with mass shootings than not in the United States. From Beirut to Kenya to Lebanon to Paris to Syria, the global community is no less spared from violent attacks grounded in

PHILOSOPHIE

Sophie Vaughan '17 is from Oakland, CA

racial, cultural and religious discrimination, the need for resources and the desire for power.

Our own campus environment mirrors the turbulence of the world, confirming once and for all that we do not in fact live in a bubble. Just think — if we are so separated from the rest of the world, why does our campus possess the same forms of ingrained racism and widespread mental health concerns that permeate the “outside?” Whether we want to believe it or not, we are firmly grounded in this world and if we are to garner any hope for addressing these challenges, it’s high time we open our eyes and acknowledge the structures of injustice upon which they’re based.

This is essentially the mission of Middlebury’s divestment campaign. Put another way, we at DivestMidd seek nothing if not to raise awareness of the rampant yet often ignored human rights violation of unprecedented proportion: climate injustice.

You may ask — what is climate justice? In short, over the last 300 years, developed nations industrialized via fossil fuel extractive economies. By some disturbing fate of geography, the result of this industrialization — floods, drought, rising seas — have disproportionately affected poorer nations in the global south.

The same goes for the home-front. The consequences of the fossil fuel industry’s actions here in the U.S. — in terms of pollution and economic vulnerability spurred by the all-consuming boom-and-bust nature of extraction — are disproportionately placed on poorer Americans and people of color.

And while rising sea levels, drought and warming temperatures — not to mention the imperialistic practices of the fossil fuel industry itself — have moved into

developing countries and stripped the world’s least resourced and most marginalized communities of their lands, livelihoods and cultures. The wealthier countries who caused these devastating effects have done next to nothing. The future of our planet and global peace are threatened as a result.

And nowhere is this more poignant than in Syria. Beginning in 2007, Syria entered a period of severe drought. This period of draught caused the price of food to double and forced millions of small farmers to abandon the countryside for Syrian cities already overcrowded with more than a million similarly desperate Iraqi refugees.

Syria’s representative to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization feared the situation was contributing to a “perfect storm” that could destabilize the country, and desperately pleaded for foreign aid. Yet, the United States and the rest of the global community remained largely unmoved by the Syrian’s appeal. And while the atrocities of Bashar al-Assad’s regime likely trump the destabilizing effects of the drought in terms of causing the war in Syria, it’s probably “not a coincidence,” as Secretary of State John Kerry recently noted, that the war was preceded by four years of failed rains, which scientists cite as a result of human-induced climate change.

Upon accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, Wangari Maathai, the first African woman and the first environmentalist to receive the prize, proclaimed that: “there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground.” At no time has that shift been more necessary than now. Our actions to promote global peace and environmental stewardship must match the gravity of the injustices at hand.

Thus, as we move closer to accomplishing the goal of carbon neutrality, let us celebrate this truly incredible accomplishment, which I may say was a project originally conceived of and designed by a group of student environmental activ-

ists. And then let us go forward with the awareness that the severity of our time demands that we move beyond a singular focus on our own “carbon footprint.” In this way we are called to a greater level of responsibility to the global community — the cause of climate justice.

Much of this work begins with awareness about what exactly constitutes climate injustice. In this pursuit, DivestMidd is working closely with President Patton and other members of the administration to bring a series of speakers to campus to educate the community on how we can better align our investments with our environmentally and globally minded values and take new actions to address structures of social and economic oppression that have paved the way for climate injustice.

Our hope is that these forums will spur a broad campus conversation on how we can better work to address the climate crisis by shifting the paradigm of our conception of environmentalism to ensure a just transition towards a sustainable future.

The movement we imagine calls for planetary awareness — the realization that we are all inextricably linked. We seek to address the root structural causes of climate injustice — rampant inequality, the pervasive notion that some lives matter more than others and the idea that the wealthiest can continue to deplete our world’s finite resources at a tragic pace and treat the atmosphere like a garbage dump. It is no coincidence that six of our world’s top 10 wealthiest corporations are involved in fossil fuel extraction.

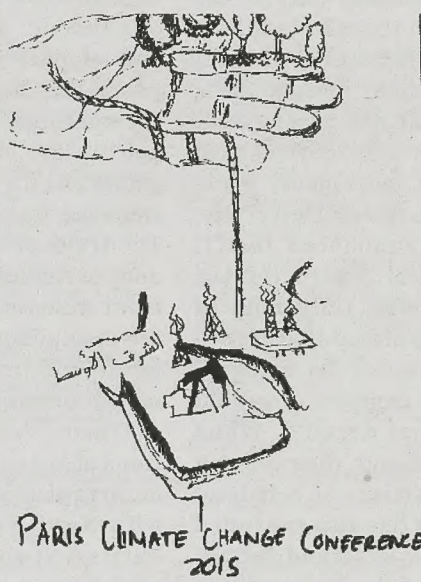
Some may question whether this movement will be successful. Can we sustain a global climate justice movement, essentially a global movement for justice at its core? A part of me fears the task is too large for us to hold. Even feminist leader Gloria Steinem conceded that women’s liberation would necessarily have to wait

until black power was won, though we still seem to be waiting for both to arrive today. From the Chartists and Owenites in Industrial England to the Communist revolution to Occupy just a few years back, movements that have sought such large scale structural changes often fail to achieve their goals.

But a larger part of me fears even more that we don’t have a choice not to try and build this movement, no matter how much we may fail in the process. The seas will rise, disease — spurred by warmer temperatures — will spread rapidly into already vulnerable regions, the rich will continue to profit from the extraction of the poor’s land and labor and the global south will find the consequences of climate change exacerbated and even more difficult to overcome through adaptation. The global north is also now feeling the effects of climate change to an increased degree. This is everyone’s fight. This is not charity. Undoubtedly, we must try to build a successful climate justice movement.

The gravity of our call becomes even more urgent upon the realization that the leaders charged with protecting human society and the planet are doing — this seems to be a trend — next to nothing. The UN climate conference in Paris will likely conclude — for the 21st time since 1992 — without a binding, and therefore effective, commitment from the world’s most powerful countries, who also happen to be the largest emitters. This is because world leaders know a binding treaty is impossible considering Senate Republicans in the U.S. — largely financed by the fossil fuel industry — have vowed to block a binding treaty and any monetary commitment to aid the most affected and least resourced countries in efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change.

As an institution of higher education and a self-proclaimed environmental leader, we are called to inhabit the fullest conception of these identities. Let us see the climate crisis for the human rights violation that it is, and match the urgency of this crisis through grassroots mobilization around education, political change, economic redistribution, restorative justice, socially responsible investment and yet unborn ideas that will enable us to transition towards a more just and sustainable world.



AMERICA'S GUN EPIDEMIC: CONSIDERING THE FACTS

In light of the consistent gun-related violence plaguing our country, it is valuable to contrast Vermont’s gun laws with other states, as well as consider America’s policies compared to those of other developed nations. Tragedy after tragedy, the U.S. continues to struggle with implementing a solution to this senseless violence. The rigidity of our political system has historically prevented the reform we

THE LO-DOWN

Lauren Alper '16 is from Mill Valley, CA

need, not to mention the fact that our Constitution promises the right to bear arms to all Americans. Instead of providing an exact prescription for how to proceed, I turn to the facts for some enlightenment. As a Vermonter and an American, it is my duty to understand how our laws may be perpetuating this violence. By putting our policies in context, it becomes exceedingly clear as to why there have been more shootings than days this year.

Many consider Vermont to be the state with the fewest firearm laws in the country. Like other states with liberal gun policies, no permit is required to purchase or

possess a rifle, shotgun, or handgun. Vermont is one of only four states that allows concealed carry without a permit. As long as you don’t intend to injure someone, it is entirely within the law to carry a gun. What makes Vermont unique is its age requirement for concealed carry; Vermonters as young as sixteen can carry a weapon, even without parental permission. In the wake of the Newtown massacre, the *Washington Post* noted that “a Vermont teenager aged 16 can’t legally go to an R-Rated movie alone or join the military, but he can buy a handgun and carry it in his jeans and be completely within the limits of the law.” What’s more, it is lawful to possess, purchase or sell a machine gun that is legally registered in compliance with federal regulations. No other state in the country recognizes Vermont’s concealed carry reciprocity permit. Comparatively, twenty-two states recognize California’s permit and twenty-seven recognize New Hampshire’s.

To get a sense of how relaxed Vermont’s laws are, I turned to my home state of California, which is known to have moderate restrictions on firearms. It is unlawful to carry a loaded rifle, shotgun or handgun in public places. To obtain a machine gun, Californians can

technically apply for a permit through the Department of Justice, but is common knowledge that the Department refuses to grant such permits. Clearly, Vermont is an outlier in its liberal gun policies.

On a broader level, it is helpful to contrast U.S. law with the policies of its peer nations. It is easy to make the connection as to why our country has a shooting epidemic. The U.S. has the loosest gun control laws in the developed world. So, it’s not surprising that we also have the highest rate of gun-related homicide. The U.S. gun-related murder rate is nearly twenty times that of the next twenty-two developed nations — combined. In addition, the per capita ownership is the highest in the world. On the other end of the spectrum, Japan is known to be the developed world’s strictest nation on firearms. In 2008, the US experienced over twelve thousand firearm homicides, whereas Japan experienced only eleven. To obtain a gun in Japan, you must attend an all-day class, pass a written exam, pass a shooting range class, pass a mental test, pass a drug test and complete a rigorous background check for a criminal record or association with extremist groups. Once you own your new gun, you must provide the police with documentation of the loca-

tion of the firearm in your home and you must lock and store the ammo and gun separately. The police will then inspect the gun once per year and you must re-take the class and exam every three years. Whereas the US’s firearm framework begins with the right to bear arms, Japan’s law states that no person shall possess a firearm. Of course, history and cultural differences can account for these two distinct approaches. However you feel about the right to own a gun or Japan’s policies, consider this; from 2004 to 2014, more than 2,000 people on the terror watch list were able to purchase guns in the United States.

Solving our gun epidemic will require thoughtful policy and cultural changes. Making these changes won’t be easy. While it is unclear how and when this process will take place, what is very clear is the cause to our problem: unbelievably lenient policies that are supported by profit-driven corporations like the NRA. No more prayers from our politicians; let’s pay attention to these astounding facts and institute reform. The causation is undeniable: if Americans can easily access guns, the massacres will continue.

Go/Refuge

Three weeks ago, I called for Middlebury to take action in combating the Syrian refugee crisis. While President Patton's administration has not yet

POVERTY PROSE

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is from Las Vegas, NV

acknowledged this, both our community and the wider higher education community have. Last week, Jeff Holland '19 wrote an op-ed publicly supporting this moral mission. He agreed with both facets of the twofold proposal – the idea of subsidizing Syrian refugee students in already-partnered universities and full scholarship and transportation grants for selected refugee students to Middlebury itself. He also pointed out the wider value of doing our part in this world crisis. He wrote, "When we [take action], hopefully other colleges and universities will follow suit," an impact which cannot be understated. A mass movement of American higher education would dramatically improve the global situation. We are an example-setter; nothing we do exists in vacuum. By outrightly not taking humanitarian initiative, or even delaying it, we sig-

nal to other colleges and universities that remaining passive is acceptable. We signal that squatting on privilege – on our hill – disengaged from the less fortunate is okay.

Other institutions of higher education have taken action already. As noted three weeks ago, twenty different colleges and universities in the United States are already part of the moral initiative, including Bryn Mawr, Emory, Eastern Michigan, Miami and Brown. Since then, in only three weeks the movement has accelerated. More colleges and universities have actively joined the movement, while Middlebury has not. Trent University, to our north, has announced that it will welcome its first Syrian refugee student next year. The University of New Brunswick also stated that if they receive a formal request for refugees to be housed on its campus, it will do its best to fulfill that demand. While both are Canadian, and thus subject to less stringent barriers at a federal level, the movement has also expanded in the United States. Reverend John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, publicly welcomed Syrian refugees to the country on Thanksgiv-

ing. His words do not extend to actual movement in Notre Dame's institution to help refugees, but such a declaration by a high-profile member of the community of higher education illustrates action regardless.

While Middlebury has not yet moved on this issue, we as a community can change this. We will not send the message that we are content to remain in our bubble. There is both awareness and support of refugee issues on campus, even beyond Holland. Amnesty International has been the prominent leader of the conversation. Their project as an organization this year is centered on the Syrian refugee crisis. The fruits of their labor have been evident periodically, like when the library front transformed with signs and posters displaying facts about the humanitarian nightmare of Syrian migration a month or two ago.

Other refugee-focused organizations also are taking action. Last week, an organization on campus concerned with North Korean human rights sent out its first e-mail to people who signed up for the e-mail list at the beginning of the year about a preliminary meeting. The club, along with the Chinese

Club and Asian Students in Action, all advertised an event where Liberty in North Korea (LiNK) shared its work rescuing refugees. Non-student organizations like the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs have also expressed deep concern, evident in the hosting of an international panel on the issue a month ago. We can safely say that there is support for moral action to help refugees in both official college departments (i.e. RAJ) and across at least four different student organizations.

I welcome all students, faculty, organizations and departments to engage in this conversation. Talk, argue, discuss. Both in publications, like *Middlebeat*, *beyond the green* and our very own *Campus*, and among each other. For this purpose, posters have sprouted up advertising "go/refuge." Go/refuge leads to a document showcasing our moral duty. It includes a petition. This is the platform for those who support this initiative but do not have the time to write an article to have their voices heard. If you support the idea of the College helping the Syrian refugees, sign it. It is time for us to act.

Responsibility of Free Speech

The First Amendment is arguably the most defining piece of the United States' Constitution; "defining" in the sense that it effectively provides a foundation for

READER OP-ED

Maggie Caputi '16
is from Brunswick, ME

the American ideal of liberty, which is central to our country's political identity. The First Amendment affords us the opportunity to speak freely and voice our opinions without punishment. It empowers us to take ownership of those opinions and express ourselves. People have fought and died to defend and preserve this right but we often take this right for granted, exercising it carelessly, even unsafely. Its absoluteness, while necessary, may also be its crux; the hurt-

ful, the defamatory and the untrue are not out of bounds. People often equate their right to speak freely as the right to offend others. This isn't illegal, but such an interpretation ignores social responsibility. Although we have the right to speak freely, it's not always right to do so.

We need to interpret free speech as a responsibility in addition to a right. The initial intent behind the First Amendment was to ensure that citizens could safely express opinions about their government without fear of censorship or punishment. Our modern understanding of the free speech is almost entirely disconnected from its original purpose; we are using it as a justification for saying whatever we want and, in doing so, we ultimately compromise the integrity of the right.

Speaking freely and speaking responsibly are not mutually exclusive. In order to have engaging and meaningful discussions, we sometimes need to monitor our language for the sake of respect, but this doesn't mean we need to censor our opinions altogether. Additionally, while it's important to monitor what we say and how we say it, it's just as important that we make a conscious effort to understand what we hear and how we hear it. At the beginning of the year, the *Campus* published an editorial titled, "The Coddling of the Middlebury Mind," in an effort to encourage members of the Middlebury community to "learn to disagree without shutting down, refusing to listen and labeling." If speaking freely is the First Amendment, listening openly should be Amendment 1.5. When oth-

ers speak, we need to listen attentively, even if we don't agree. By plugging our ears, we don't get rid of the things that make us uncomfortable – we avoid them.

While we have the right to free speech, we also have an obligation to consider our audience. When we contribute to conversations – whether public or private – we need to respect those with whom we engage. However, conversations aren't conversations if nobody's listening. When people speak, it's because they have something to express, and they want others to hear it. We should challenge ourselves to listen to those voices and try to understand and learn from them, just as we would hope that others would listen to us when we voice our own thoughts.

Ruminations on Clickshare and Art

I've been trying to write an article about my experience watching Clickshare (the faculty-produced show written by Midd alum Lucas Kavner '06.5) last Wednesday night. I left the play feeling isolated, frustrated, and shaken. While my peers laughed I found myself more and more disturbed by the choices both the playwright and the director made in the construction of this story. Since Wednesday night, however, I have had many different conversations – including a conversation with the director – which have shifted my understanding

READER OP-ED

Rebecca Coates-Finke '16.5
is from Zuni Pueblo, NM

of those choices. I have talked to people who think the play is brilliant, to people who were as uncomfortable as I was, and to those who could understand my feelings but did not mirror their intensity. And so, instead of writing a burning piece filled with self-righteous fury, which I was inclined to do, I am going to present some thoughts that will hopefully lead to important questions and conversations. It's important to know that I don't present these thoughts lightly. I present them because they are vitally important

to justice and equity in our community and our world.

I have written many iterations of this letter, and I think the best way to start this conversation will be to focus on just one of my concerns regarding the play. This concern was born out of the choice to cast a man in the role of Milano, a role that was originally written for a woman. Throughout the show, Milano is referred to using "she/her" pronouns; the actor (Alexander Burnett, '16) wore a long dress and wig, presenting as feminine. I was extremely curious and concerned about this choice. Throughout the course of conversations about the play, I have heard several reasons posed for that choice. Some thought that it was simply funnier that way. Humor is important, but what about a man wearing woman's clothing is so funny to us? That feels crude at best, at worst overtly sexist and transphobic. Professor Draper, the director, told me that casting Burnett gave Milano a formidability and age that would be harder to capture with a 20-year old actress. This was a reason that made sense to me, and was fascinating from a gender perspective, as in many places post-menstrual women (middle-aged women) are given traditionally male roles (in some ways,

seen as men). Another reason given was that Burnett's portrayal gave a certain bizarreness to the character; again, I must ask why that is true, and what that means in how we understand those in our community and in the broader world who have what might be understood as "non-normative" relationships with gender. Draper also suggested to me that Milano was not in fact a woman, but a man who chose to present as a woman. He then clarified that Milano was not in "drag." As we spoke further, it became clear that the complexity of a statement like that, and the complexity of the way gender operates as an identity category in general, was missing from the conversation.

My concern is rooted in the story that is most often told about transwomen in popular narratives, which is that they are men "pretending" to be women, that they are deceptive, that they are "bizarre," and most importantly, that if they are not these things, it is because they "look like women" (ie, they have boobs, a vagina, and a traditionally feminine face). At best, this is extremely invalidating and disrespectful. At worst, narratives like these contribute to the 21 transwomen killed in the United States just this year. My concern is that the

Middlebury theater department entered into a conversation that they were not fully equipped to have, and they lacked the information to know what questions they should be asking in the first place.

I think as artists, we spend a lot of time talking about how powerful our work can be as an agent of "good." Music heals, theater transforms, stories will save us. I believe this completely. But I don't think we spend enough time talking about the ways art can destroy. We don't spend enough time fearing how easily we tell stories that are oppressive, that conform to mainstream narratives of who is valuable, who is loveable, who is in power, who can be a hero, who can be a villain, and who will always lose. And sometimes, when we are trying to tell a story that will break down walls and reconstruct the world, or when we are trying to bring a story that was shoved to the back forward to the light, we lose something in the subtleties and completely mess up. But when we mess up, people get hurt. Maybe not physically, maybe not even today, but in small and meaningful ways. So I appreciate that Clickshare complicated notions of gender in their play. I hope in the future, they come better equipped and with a little more caution.

Inviting Cultures On Our Campus

This fall, I submitted an application to the Small Concerts Initiative and was given a grant to bring hip-hop artist, Chris Felner, aka “Felly,” to

READER OP-ED

Alex Deutsche '18
is from Princeton, NJ

Middlebury. His show was scheduled for last Friday, and ultimately he performed for over 550 students. However, just prior to his arrival in Vermont, Chris was accused in a *Middlebury Campus* op-ed of being a cultural appropriator because of his skin color, the way he talked and the sound of his music.

Elizabeth Dunn, the author of the op-ed, is certainly entitled to her opinion and, while I don't agree with all of her views, I fully respect her right to share them with our community and beyond.

But after spending the weekend with Chris, I felt compelled to respond to her piece, which I believe not only unfairly tarnished our guest, but also misses the point of artistic endeavors and their role in our community.

When I picked him up from the airport on Thursday after his eight-hour cross country trip, Chris had already gotten wind of the op-ed. I expected him to be upset that he was facing a growing protest at the school where he was about to perform. I was wrong. Instead, Chris, who turned out to be a down-to-earth, positive, optimistic kid, was interested in Elizabeth's perspective and wanted to speak with her. He told me he had “nothing but love for her for expressing her opinion and being so convinced of something. But,” he noted, “anyone convinced of something should be open to hearing another side.” And while we immediately reached out to Elizabeth after Chris' arrival on campus, we unfortunately did not hear back from her in time to arrange a meeting. That was certainly an opportunity lost.

For those of you who don't know his music, Felly uses African and Jamaican rhythms and roots from African and Jamaican culture in his songwriting. Yes, it's true that Felly is not African-American and he is not Jamaican. Yes, it's true that he comes from a privileged background and might not have the same experiences as many African American or Jamaican musicians. But if we cherish diversity, don't we want cultures to influence each other? Don't people from different backgrounds deserve equal opportunities to express their inner creativity and artistic inspiration? Should Eric Clapton be prohibited from singing the Delta Blues because he has a British accent? Transcendent musicians crossing cultural divides is musical appreciation, not cultural appropriation.

Yet the editorial expressed deep skepticism over Felly's “supposed” Rastafarian connection. It's interesting to note that Bob Marley, one of the musicians most associated with “Rastafarianism”, was half white and half black. The op-ed wrote, “Rastafarianism is black. It is exclusive...” Does that mean there was an element of cultural appropriation in Marley's music?

Unquestionably, Chris is not “culturally” Rastafarian. He has, however, spent lots of time in Jamaica, and has cultivated multiple friends on the island. He's led four separate service trips in poor areas, and visited other times solely to hang out with his local Jamaican friends. Chris explained to me that he loves the way the Rastafarians “preached love and unity,” and that it's his goal to infuse his music with those same qualities. Notably though, Chris does not limit his musical exploration solely to Jamaican music. Chris mines many other cultures to expand his musical outlook, including those from Brazilian, African and European cultures.

Elizabeth also wrote, “Felly doesn't

seem especially interested in interacting with actual black people... likely it's because black people aren't cool.” I'm not at all clear on how based on the viewing of one music video she reached this stark conclusion, but the assertion is completely at odds with the person I got to know this weekend. In the face of unexpected controversy, Chris showed himself to be open, outgoing, sincere and accepting. The whole weekend Chris interacted with a diverse group of students here and started conversations with everyone trying to understand their perspectives. Yet he's being labeled a racist. As an aside, Elizabeth might be interested to know that two of the musicians who appear on Felly's most recent album were African-American, including one who grew up in Jamaica and just happens to be one of his closest friends.

One of the first sentences of the op-ed wrote, “Felly, those who were responsible for bringing him here and those planning to attend his concert are unaware of the systematic racism black people face, and how even seemingly innocuous or insignificant actions, like going to a concert, reinforce discrimination.” As the person responsible for bringing Felly to campus, I take issue. I've never met Elizabeth, so I don't know from whom she's getting her information about my awareness, or lack thereof, of the systematic racism black people face. But I do know that I enjoy music and when I proposed to bring Felly here, it was specifically because I relished the idea of bringing a musician to Middlebury who could bring together a wide array of people for a shared experience. A human experience.

The editorial also noted that “considering Middlebury College's own history with appropriation, it's no surprise that Felly was chosen as our visiting artist”. Our Spring concert last year was T-Pain. Middlebury College was also the first college in America to graduate an African-

American student.

Of course, I believe cultural appropriation is an issue, and needs to be addressed. This, concert, and Felly, did not deserve to be mired in controversy. Like Dwayne Scott (D. Scott, opener for Felly) said in front of the enthusiastic audience, “I want to address a recent article that has summoned a lot of mixed feelings and caused my own background singers to cancel performing with me. We, as artists, are just trying to share and express our art with y'all. Don't make things controversial that don't need to be controversial. I don't have an issue with Felly. We're backstage kicking it. So when he comes out on stage, support his art and make the most noise possible. Show love y'all.”

After a terrific weekend and performance, Chris wanted me to deliver a message to Elizabeth: “I have this same love for you regardless of the negative words you have thrown at me. I'm sorry you feel this way, but I hope you can see my side. I'll keep fighting for unity while you try to do the same through your methods. I take pride in the fact that I've been able to bring in hundreds of people (Black, White, Asian, etc.) to my shows to come together for the simple love of music.”

I admire Chris as a young artist following his dream, and I admire Elizabeth for her willingness to express her views in an open forum. Discourse is healthy, and in a college environment, particularly necessary. But we must all accept that as a community, we will never be able to come to a complete agreement on any issue, and instead resolve to respect each other as individuals. It's my fervent hope that artists of all stripes can and will continue to draw on cultural traditions not their own, as they broaden their own horizons, as well as ours. Let's knock down the walls and come together, not build them and grow farther apart.

Reconceptualizing Mental Health

“Have you been feeling depressed or down for most of the day nearly every day? Are you experiencing a loss of pleasure in activities you usually enjoy?” After a full summer of conducting phone interviews in a neuroscience lab that studies depression, these questions are burned into my memory. And so are the answers to these questions that I received. This experience led to my firmly held belief that many people are experiencing extreme emotional pain and so much of this pain is being hidden.

There is a misconception about mental health on this campus. There have been pervasive conversations about stress — particularly with respect to academic performance — and wellness of the student body. However, much of this conversation misses the mark.

READER OP-ED

Maddie Hoar '17.5
is from Wellesley, Mass.

Major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, to name a few — with a myriad of potential causes including loss, trauma, possibly genetics and stress. Notice that stress is just one of the potential causes. Academic stress has come to dominate our community's conversation about mental health, and it is only a piece of the puzzle.

Generalizations and comparisons disregard this very important aspect of the concept of mental health. Therefore, we need to shift the conversation not to what is causing the general stress of the campus but rather what is causing the stress of the individual. Each person has a unique background and personality disposition. Although it is important to discuss the culture in which we students exist on this campus, there is not enough discussion about the fact that mental health is individualized. The assumption of homogeneity is an inaccurate assumption.

The other problem that I have commonly seen in my conversations with peers on this campus is the problem of comparisons, a problem that is exactly counter

to the concept of mental health. It could be that one individual with a significant trauma history develops no PTSD, but an individual with a genetic predisposition and no precipitating event develops significant major depressive disorder. Many people feel guilty about seeking help when they feel they have not had a significant event to cause their mental health problems. We should not be making generalizations or comparisons. Rather, we should be focusing on giving individuals the tools to tackle their highly individualized mental health problems.

Part of this will entail reducing stigma on campus. Whenever I sit in the waiting room in Par-ton in the counseling office, I always notice the immediate air of embarrassment when another student walks in. People are uncomfortable and ashamed to openly acknowledge their struggles with mental health.

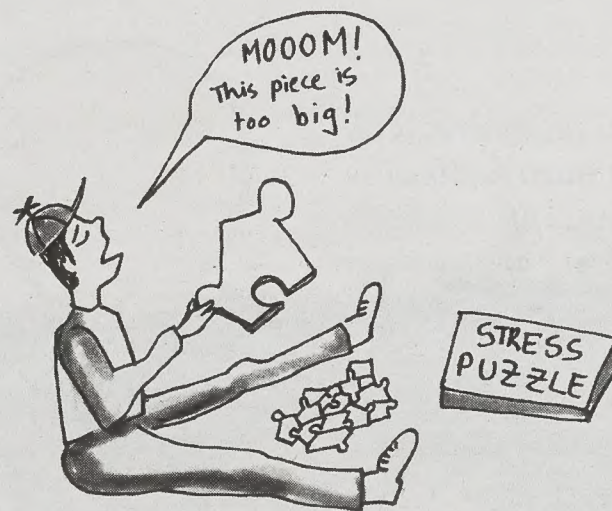
This is partly why I believe academic stress has become a central part of the conversation on campus. Academic stress is something that almost everyone experiences and that it is socially acceptable to discuss. However, people are exceedingly uncomfortable when it comes to talking about social anxieties or family problems or other forms of stress. Therefore, academic stress is receiving a disproportionate amount of attention. I also think that this emphasis on the academic stress of students is creating

a divide between students and faculty members within the community. In reality, faculty members experience their own stressors and mental health problems that should be included in the dialogue.

We need to take a step back and look at how we are approaching mental health on this campus. Rather than jumping at the chance to make generalizations

about academic stress causing mental health problems, we need to have more conversations about the experience of individuals. The Grid is a step in the right direction with a more holistic approach to student wellness, but there is still more work to be done. The Grid is a solutions-based approach to a problem with root causes that have yet to be fully determined. Groups such as the Student Wellness group and Resilience should be broadcasted, and students should be encouraged to engage in an open dia-

logue. This is a key part of the problem — there is so much going unsaid about things people go through on this campus, things that reach far beyond just academic stress. People are embarrassed and scared to share their experience, and this is the aspect of our culture that we need to address. We need to put more emphasis on the concept that mental health is about the experience of the individual.



CHARLOTTE FAIRLESS

Carbon Countdown: Neu

Article by Forrest Wallace

Graphics by Cordelia Prouvost and Emma Hatheway

This year, a US national security report labeled climate change as “an urgent and growing threat to our national security.” While climate change is a natural occurrence, there is much evidence to show that humans have greatly increased the rate of climate change. This increased rate is largely due to the increase of atmospheric greenhouse gases, released by human activity. Greenhouse gases essentially trap heat in the lower atmosphere, which contributes to a rise in temperatures. Climate change is a global issue, one that will affect every corner of the earth. The College has been one of many institutions of higher education to take a leading role in addressing climate change.

A Goal of Carbon Neutrality

On May 5, 2007, the Trustees adopted the Resolution on Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2016. Carbon neutrality is defined as net zero carbon emissions, which requires that an institution “remove” as much carbon dioxide equivalent from the atmosphere as it emits.

In the resolution, the Trustees wrote that “a goal of carbon neutrality for Middlebury College by 2016, while challenging, is feasible through energy conservation and efficiency, renewable fuel sources, technology innovations, educational programming and learning, and offset purchases after all other feasible measures have been taken.” With 2016 right around the corner, it is time to consider where the College is on its quest for carbon neutrality, and what can still be done to further its environmental mission.

The Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted in 2008, targeted heating and cooling, electricity, vehicles, college travel, and waste minimization as areas in which the College could reduce net emissions to progress towards carbon neutrality. At the time of the report, heating and cooling made the largest contribution to emissions at 89 percent, travel and vehicles came in a distant second at nine percent, and electricity and waste accounted for only one percent of emissions each. Since the CAP went into effect, the College has made strides to reach carbon neutrality and reduce emissions in each of these areas.

Waste

Emissions from decomposing waste comprised only one percent of the College’s total emissions in 2008. These emissions result from waste decomposing in landfills or being burned, both of which release greenhouse gases.

All of the College’s waste is already sorted in the recycling center, recycling as much as possible. Recommendations to further reduce waste included integrating waste minimization and sustainable practices into the residential life system, and creating a service requirement for first-years in the dining halls or recycling center to develop an understanding of the waste generated by the College.

To address emissions from waste, the College has increased signage promoting sustainable practices on campus and conducted campaigns to raise student awareness about waste. However, the student body is still largely unaware of the College’s waste because the waste management is so far removed from students. Though educating the student body would be valuable, the low level of emissions from waste have, understandably, ensured that it is not a top priority.

Vehicle Emissions

Vehicle emissions and emissions from travel make up another nine percent of the College’s greenhouse gas emissions. Travel and vehicle usage are necessary for the function of the College, and so these emissions cannot be eliminated within the confines of modern technology. To reduce emissions from travel, the CAP advised increasing education about the impacts of travel, stressing videoconferencing as an alternative to traveling and upgrading the vehicle fleet to more energy efficient vehicles.

Since 2008, the College has seen an increase in greenhouse gas emissions from waste and air travel, but a decrease in emissions from mobile combustion (which include road vehicles and construction equipment).

In 2007, the College estimated that it generated 137 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCDE) due to solid waste. By 2014, that number had increased slightly to 153 MTCDE. Emissions from air travel increased more dramatically over this same period, from 1381 MTCDE in 2007 to 2346 MTCDE in 2014. Emissions from mobile combustion have decreased from 408 to 370 MTCDE.

In light of the increasing size of the student body, it is admirable that emissions from waste and mobile combustion have not risen significantly. Air travel is a much larger contributor to the College’s emissions, though, and yearly emissions have increased by almost 1000 MTCDE since 2007.

The College has certainly made progress since 2007, but student awareness about emissions is still lacking and emissions from air travel have increased dramatically.

Electricity

Emissions from purchased electricity accounted for only one percent of the College’s overall emissions in 2008. By 2014, this figure had risen to almost seven percent. This increase in percentage was largely due to a decrease in net emissions from heating and cooling. However, emissions from purchased electricity did rise from 676 MTCDE in 2007 to 864 tons in 2014.

Of the 22 million kilowatt hours of electricity the College uses each year, 20 percent is cogenerated on campus by turbines connected to the central heating plant. The remaining 80 percent of the College’s electricity is purchased from Green Mountain Power

(GMP). This purchased electricity accounts for the greenhouse gas emissions from electricity, because the electricity the College purchases from GMP is not necessarily from carbon neutral sources.

Until 2013, 70 percent of Vermont’s power came from nuclear energy, which is carbon neutral. Much of the rest of the state’s electricity came from hydropower, another source of clean energy. The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, which supplied most of Vermont’s nuclear power, shut down in late 2014. The Entergy Corporation, which operated the power plant, cited economic reasons for closing the plant. Consequently, GMP has had to purchase electricity from other sources.

GMP predicts that only 55 percent of its fuel mix in 2015 will be renewable, coming from nuclear and hydroelectric sources. The other 45 percent will consist mainly of “system” power, which comes from various sources, including fossil fuels. In calculating carbon emissions from purchased electricity, the College must consider the ultimate source of its electricity.

Since 2007, carbon emissions due to purchased electricity at the College have risen by 188 MTCDE, nearly 30 percent. Though only a small contribution to the College’s overall carbon emissions, the College should continue to investigate ways to reduce these emissions. To help reduce net emissions from electricity, the CAP recommended conservation as well as investigating alternative energy sources, such as wind and solar power.

In 2012 the College installed a small 143kW demonstration solar system near McCardell Bicentennial Hall, which consists of 34 solar trackers. In total, the system produces about 200,000 kilowatt-hours annually: one percent of the College’s total electricity consumption. The system generates enough electricity to power Forest Hall.

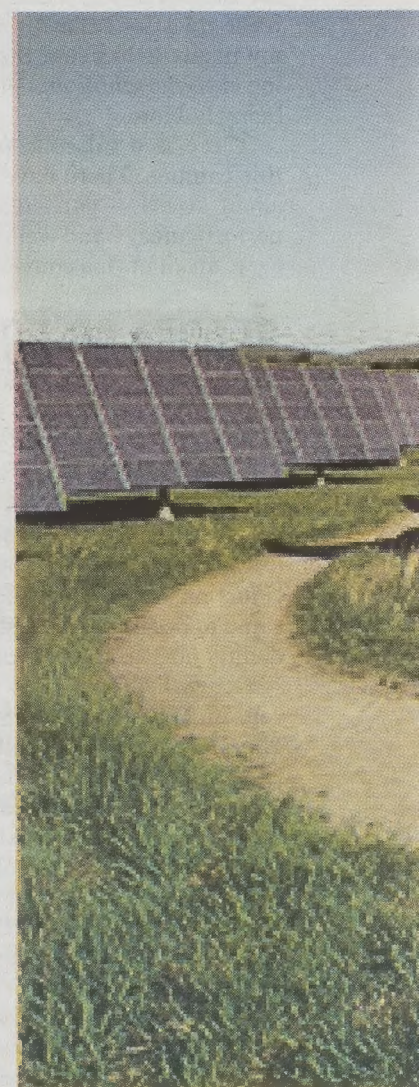
Solar power is inherently renewable, and thus an excellent option to offset the College’s energy usage. However, current solar technology is not conducive to power generation at the scale necessary for the College. The College should continue to pursue conservation and other efforts to reduce overall electricity usage.

Heating and Cooling

The largest contribution to the College’s carbon emissions comes from heating and cooling. In 2008, heating and cooling constituted 89 percent of the College’s emissions. Most of the emissions came from the combustion of no. 6 fuel oil to heat and cool buildings; the College was burning about 2,000,000 gallons per year, which released 23,877 MTCDE in 2006-07. Another 2,009 MTCDE came from the combustion of no. fuel oil, and 623 from propane.

The CAP clearly stressed the need to use carbon neutral fuel sources to heat and cool the campus if the College is to reach carbon neutrality by 2016.

Photos courtesy of College Communications



Neutral By The New Year?

The College's \$12 million biomass plant, opened in 2009, was a major step toward reducing net emissions from heating and cooling the College. The biomass plant burns wood, which the College considers a carbon neutral fuel source because the same amount of carbon dioxide is absorbed by the trees as is released in combustion. The plant utilizes a process known as biomass gasification to combust woodchips, which is much more efficient than traditional methods of burning wood. The heat generated from this combustion is used to make steam, which is piped throughout the campus to meet the College's heating and cooling needs.

While the net emissions from the biomass plant are zero, this does not mean it has no emissions. The emissions from the plant are somewhat lower than those from burning fuel oil, and emissions resulting from chipping and transporting the wood to the biomass facility are not factored into the assessment of carbon neutrality.

Unfortunately, the biomass plant is not large enough to meet all of the College's heating and cooling needs. In addition to biomass combustion, the College still burns 640,000 gallons of no.6 fuel oil each year. To address this issue, the College is undergoing a switch to burning bio-methane instead of fuel oil.

The use of bio-methane was made possible by the approval of the VT Gas Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project (Phase 1). Bio-methane is chemically equivalent to natural gas, and is produced by the digestion of organic waste.

A spur on the new natural gas pipeline from Colchester, VT to the Addison and Rutland area will allow the College to easily transport bio-methane to campus. The bio-methane will be produced offsite, at a local dairy farm. The use of bio-methane to phase out fuel oil is very important because the College considers bio-methane a carbon neutral fuel, and thus its use will greatly reduce the College's net emissions from heating and cooling.

The College has also made strides to reduce emissions from heating and cooling by improving building efficiency.

In 2007, a survey of buildings at the College indicated that 53 percent of the square footage on campus performed well below current energy code standards. Since then, the College has had two buildings receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification, and is seeking LEED Gold certification for Virtue Field House.

The College's efforts have resulted in a 66 percent reduction in net emissions from stationary combustion sources, such as boilers, heaters and ovens, since 2007. From 2013 to 2014, the College

emitted a net of only 8,996 MTCDE due to stationary combustion, as compared to 26,509 MTCDE in 2006 to 2007. However, biogenic emissions — those due to combustion of biologically based materials (wood) — from 2013 to 2014 were 21,658 MTCDE. This is not counted in the College's assessment of net emissions from stationary combustion because it is considered carbon neutral. Though the College may exclude these emissions, the carbon neutrality of biomass combustion is disputed by many.

Our Carbon Footprint

In 2014, the College reported gross emissions of 8,996 MTCDE from stationary combustion, 370 from mobile combustion, 864 from purchased electricity, 2,346 from air travel, and 153 from solid waste. This amounts to total emissions of 12,729 MTCDE. The College also included reductions of 10 MTCDE due to purchase of renewable energy credits (RECs), 550 from carbon offsets purchased, and 9,905 MTCDE from sequestration due to college-owned lands. In all, this amounted to a reported net emissions of 2,264 MTCDE.

The College's many efforts, especially the switch to bio-methane for heating and cooling, will further decrease the net carbon emissions for 2016. If necessary, the College can purchase carbon offsets in order to meet its goal. In assessing its greenhouse gas emissions, the College employs a custom tool tailored to its needs. It is worthwhile to note that other methods of assessing emissions may yield drastically different results.

Carbon neutrality, though an important step for the College, is by no means an end goal. As 2016 draws closer, it is time to begin discussion of the next steps. The College should continue to demonstrate leadership by further reducing its environmental impact.

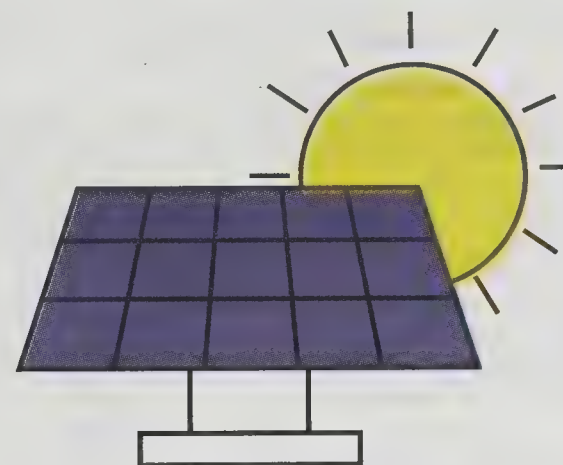
The College's quest for carbon neutrality came about because of the actions of a dedicated group of students, faculty, and staff, who challenged the College to adopt an ambitious goal. Those students have long since left Middlebury and ventured into the world; now, it is our turn to take up the mantle, and push the College to new heights.

It is easy to look at the issue of climate change and give up because it is so daunting, but every great change begins with small actions. It is unrealistic to expect that everyone will consider the gravity of this issue and take action. I hope, however, that we will continue to consider the impact of our actions, from reducing the use of vehicles to turning out the lights. As you go about your daily life, take a moment to consider the following question: What can you do to live more sustainably? Every action, no matter how small, makes a difference.

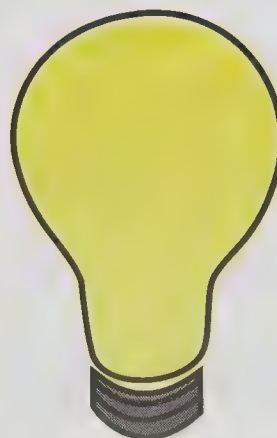
89% of greenhouse gas emissions came from heating and cooling in 2008



Air travel emissions increased by 1000 metric tons of carbon since 2007



The College's Solar Farm produces 200,000 kilowatt-hours annually; enough electricity to power Forest Hall.



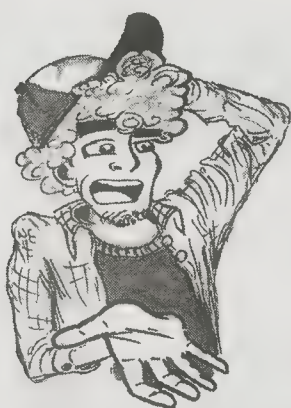
66% reduction in net emissions from stationary combustion sources (such as boilers, used to heat and cool campus) since 2007.



What is No. 6 Fuel Oil?

The lowest grade of, and historically cheapest, liquid fuel available due to its high percentage of residuals (i.e. water, sulfur, mineral soil). It is used mainly in power plants because it must be pre-heated before combustion.





How is it Still a (Midd) Thing?

By Charlie Ascher
Senior Columnist

Well here it is, the final issue of the semester. And just like that you no longer have time to do all of those things you said you were going to do. So much for getting your life together. The time is approaching to escape with your sanity, that remaining portion of your dignity and whatever a night of cramming all the readings you "forgot to do" can get you on your exams.

This semester I feel as if I've covered all of the issues that needed discussing, totally no exaggeration.

I've covered the ever-pressing topics of vegan riblets, Ross smoothies, Battell Bathtubs, BannerWeb and many other undeniable priorities of Middlebury College life.

Ok, but in all honesty, how is my column still a thing?

To quote the always wise Bob and Bob from Office Space, "What would you say you do here?" Well to be totally honest, I have no idea. I guess I write 500 words a week, so there's that.

I spend every column venting about minor inconveniences that in no way actually matter. Does it matter that the mailboxes are a little bit finicky? Not at all. Do you have to eat the vegan riblets? Nope. And I mean really, have you ever had to take a bath in Battell? I sure hope not... If you did, then please report back that you are, in fact, still alive.

My theme isn't even original. I stole it shamelessly from the writers of *Last Week Tonight*. You would think that I could have at least come up with a significantly different title than John Oliver's "How Is It Still a Thing," but no. As I stated in the first column of the year, I prefer to think of myself as efficient rather than lazy, so I just threw Midd in there and called it a day. Brilliant. So much for creativity!

If you did, in fact, ride it out and read all of my columns (I'm looking at you, Mom), thanks and congrats.

You have made it through over 5,500 words of a mediocre satirical column that has a strange obsession with arbitrary percentages and references to mediocre movies forgotten by 67 percent of their viewers within one week of watching. (Pro tip: check out the 2006 animated film *Barney*, starring the illustrious Kevin James as a bull with udders, for an example.)

I'm going abroad in the spring, so the quality of writing and reporting in this paper is going way up.

But before I do so, I will bring the maturity of the *Campus* back down to a middle school level one time during J-term when the car column makes its triumphant return for one last GLaurie Ride. That's right, in a rare lapse of judgment, President Patton has agreed to drive with me to McDonald's. It will be the pinnacle of my journalistic career. Stay tuned.

Debate Society Takes Their Arguments Across the Globe

By Nicole Hoehle
Contributing Writer

Planet X is in the early stages of human development. Should it adopt communism or capitalism?

This motion was debated in the final round of the 2015 Oxford Inter-Varsity Debating Competition. On the weekend of Nov. 13, the Middlebury Debate Society sent its three most experienced debaters to compete in this prestigious event. The society is a student-run organization that brings together students who love to argue for and think about both sides of a polarizing issue.

This fall, the Society sent students to England to compete at the Oxford Tournament, Cambridge Tournament and Cambridge Women's Tournament. These three events are among the most esteemed debate competitions in the world, bringing together debaters from many different countries.

The competitions are held in the British Parliamentary Style, a common form of academic debate. In this format, debaters are presented with the topic, called a "motion," and assigned a stance only fifteen minutes before the debate. They fulfill one of four roles, the "opening government," "opening opposition," "closing government," or "closing opposition." In this short period of time, each student prepares a seven-minute speech that they will use to try and sway the judges. Debaters need to be ready to argue for or against any motion that is thrown their way.

Elizabeth Lee '17 is president of the Middlebury Debate Society and attended all three of the international competitions. "What you really have to do is learn a lot about what's going on in the world right now and understand the most prominent theories in philosophy," she explained. Staying up to date with current events is key when preparing for a competition. "The Economist is the debater's favorite news source," Lee added.

The motions that were considered at these events spanned such diverse topics as the feminist movement, climate engineering and whether or not Western democracies should abandon an Olympics hosted by Russia.

"One idea that I really liked [debating] was a right to emigration," Lee recalled. Students discussed whether a government should pay for people to immigrate to a dif-



Elizabeth Lee '17 practices at the 2015 Oxford Inter-Varsity Debating Competition.

ferent country if they can't afford it themselves. The central question became whether or not the failure to fund such a trip would be comparable to forcing someone to stay somewhere they don't want to be. "If you have a fundamental disagreement with the country you're living in, presumably you should be able to leave that society," Lee reflected.

From Dec. 27 to Jan. 4, the Middlebury Debate Society will be sending students to the World Universities Debating Championship. This is the largest debate tournament in the world and some of the best debaters from every continent will compete. Every year it is held in a different country. Last year it was hosted in Selangor, Malaysia and this winter it will be in the historical port city of Thessaloniki, Greece. Over 70 different nations will be represented.

"Getting to know people from all over the world that share your passion for debate is great," Lee added. There are some clear differences in the way that teams prepare for the competition, of course. At several universities in England, for example, a debate society comes with its own exclusive union, grand chamber, and library. The benefit of the international tournaments is that societies like these will encounter groups that are less formal in their approach. There is more than one way to argue persuasively. "Staying in the U.S.,

you don't realize that there are so many different styles of debate, and that they are all very effective," Lee explained.

The Middlebury Debate Society also participates in events closer to home. About once a week the students attend a domestic debate tournament. And during J-term, Middlebury will be hosting its own event. The 2016 Middlebury Debate Invitational will take place the weekend of Jan. 16 and will include college teams from all over the East Coast.

No previous debating experience is needed to join the Middlebury Debate Society. Getting involved with the organization can be a rewarding experience for those who want to think about today's biggest questions as well as those who are more interested in the competitive aspect. Lee explained, "It's a lot of work, but it's really worth it. We have a really great community. We put on social events and are trying to find ways to foster dialogue." The Debate Society is currently working with President Laurie Patton to plan a joint event that would encourage controversial conversations.

If you are someone looking forward to debating today's most pressing questions around the dinner table this holiday season, the Middlebury Debate Society might be just the place for you.

BTV: MEET THE TEAM FUELING YOUR INTERNET HABITS

By Hye-Jin Kim
Features Editor

It has been said: "Home is where the wifi connects automatically." Yes, while it's convenient being able to speed google French conjugations en route to an in-class exam, I wouldn't describe the middle of Battell Beach as "home."

But the ubiquitous (and free) campus wi-fi is arguably one of the more under-appreciated college perks.

Students rave about the unlimited meal plan and 4:00 Proc all the time. But when the dining halls close at 8 P.M. (and when you can no longer procrastinate by eating copious amounts of soft-serve), there is no feeling more glorious than curling up in bed and watching the black screen glow red: Netflix.

According to Billy Sneed, the Internet Technology Services (ITS) Manager for Central Systems and Network Services, internet usage peaks at 1.2 GB per second each evening. Not surprisingly, usage decreases on Friday and Saturday, and peaks again by Sunday afternoon. In order to protect against a network outage (can you imagine... it would be near apocalyptic for all the Type-A personalities on this campus), the College relies on two different internet service providers, Level3 and FirstLight.

The total annual cost to provide

optical-fiber internet for the Vermont campus, including Bread Loaf, is about \$250,000.

Although Sneed noted this was more costly than contracting with a single provider, he said, "But how much is it going to cost if it goes out?"

Other challenges unique to maintaining an internet network in rural Vermont is the diverse and mountainous terrain where the optical fibers must be installed, according to Jim Stuart, the Associate VP for ITS. The lack of quality providers in the region that can meet the College's huge bandwidth requirements are also limiting, added Chris Norris, ITS Director of Security and Infrastructure.

There are currently 400 network access points (router-like devices) on campus. Balancing this with the number of banned personal routers is troublesome. "The presence of additional access points deployed by personally owned wi-fi routers could cause interference and disrupt services for everyone," said Stuart, noting that each access point has to operate on a unique airwave frequency for optimal performance.

The decision to eliminate "Midd unplugged" and switch to "MiddleburyCollege" that requires users to log in using their College account raised concerns about privacy last spring. Should students streaming movies il-

legally be worried? What about accessing the "darknet," an anonymous isolated network often used for black market transactions?

"We don't snoop on an individual's network activity," assured Norris. According to the Student Handbook, logs are only accessed to aid on-going investigations, to fulfill a subpoena, or address a notice for copyright infringement sent to the College by a third-party, such as Sony Entertainment.

According to Stuart, "Midd Unplugged" was dropped to increase overall network security rather than to monitor student usage.

"People were leveraging wireless as their primary mode of communication. More business activities were taking place over the wireless network than has in the past," said Stuart. "It became that much more critical that we secure the wireless network."

From its start as a single coax cable running old-school Ethernet from Voter to Warner Hall in the late 1980s, it is evident that the College's network has improved and evolved dramatically to keep up with the ever-increasing demand of students and professors. So whether you're streaming "Masters of None" or researching a paper for your class on "Cultural Appropriation of Model Minorities," don't forget to send a quick thanks to the College's hard-working ITS team.

SGA Speed Dating: The Grilled Cheese Sandwich to Your Atwater Suite Hangover?

By Cole Merrell
Contributing Writer

Of all the ways to be romantically involved with someone for less than ten minutes, speed dating is perhaps the most socially acceptable.

Even so, when I discovered that the Student Government Association was hosting a speed-dating event, I was a little bit skeptical as to how it would turn out. In a social scene where the height of romantic sentiment is often expressed through a dance floor make out (apparently the cool kids abbreviate this to "DFMO") in an Atwater suite, it seemed a little naive to believe that students would choose to spend two hours on a Friday night awkwardly mumbling to each other in a lighted room.

Still, the event intrigued me — partially because of the aforementioned reasons, partially because I obviously had no other plans and partially because I have felt painfully unlovable ever since Erin McDowell rejected me in ninth grade.

So I walked to Coltrane Lounge on Friday night with my laptop in tow, in search of the perfect story, and maybe even some companionship for my own lonely soul.

Ever the polite party guest, I showed up to the event 45 minutes early, where I met Georgia Grace Edwards '18, the second-term SGA senator who organized the event.

The room had two huge circles of chairs set up to face each other, the idea being that students sit across from each other for a three-minute "date" and then rotate to somebody else, 15 times. Conceptually, it's a lot like Tinder, only you're forced to swipe right every time and you don't look as good because it's real life.

When I asked Edwards about what made her decide to host a speed-dating event, she mentioned a few different factors.

"The first reason I wanted to do this is because I've noticed this feeling on campus where people are feeling lonely a little bit," she said, before laughing and mentioning that if I've been on Yik Yak at all this semester I will know what she is talking about.

Edwards went on to talk about the hookup culture here on campus and how she feels events like this one can help to provide students with a different environment to meet new people.

"I really am passionate about people and my favorite events are campus are the ones where it's a lot of discussion between people," she said. "My vision is for this to



GEORGIA GRACE EDWARDS

Over 100 students went to Coltrane Lounge on Friday night to shake up their love lives and meet new people at a Speed Dating event.

provide an alternate space for people to meet that's not just an Atwater suite."

At 8:15 p.m., students began flooding into Coltrane in excited little pockets, the air abuzz with the nervous excitement that comes with not knowing exactly what's about to happen.

Turnout was high, with over one hundred students in attendance. As more and more people shuffled into the room, chairs had to be set up, scooted back and pushed together in an attempt to accommodate all of these potential lovers.

I stole a seat in the corner, where I spoke to two students, Elizabeth and Laura, about their expectations for the evening.

Laura mentioned that, as a first-year, she hoped to meet some people outside of her commons. When I asked Elizabeth if she hoped the evening would bring some kind of romantic connection she blushed and said, "Well, I do believe in fate."

By this point, Edwards was standing on a table at the front of the room, ready to get the ball rolling, so I suggested that Elizabeth and Laura find me afterwards so I could get their opinions on how the night went, to which Elizabeth responded coolly, "Do you want me to just give you my number?"

After a quick explanation of how the dating rotation would work, the timer started and we were off.

How was my speed dating experience? A little awkward, to be sure, in part because I had to explain to each person I spoke to why I was writing down what they said on a laptop and in part because Mohammed, the young man seated next to me, was such a smooth talker that when girls had to rotate to me their disappointment was palpable. Still, I was able to talk to over 15 students, and their insights provided a remarkably balanced perception of the Middlebury dating scene.

Except for one, all of the students I spoke to said that they came to the event

simply to meet new people.

As Emily, the first of my dates for the evening, put it, "This has gotten a lot of awesome people together who might not otherwise have met each other."

Even though most students didn't come to speed dating with the intent of seriously dating someone, I felt that I had responsibility as a journalist to question them about their romantic lives. Out of the 15 students I asked, 11 said that they would be interested in seriously dating someone

here at Middlebury, but most of them took a little prodding to admit it, usually saying something along the lines of "Well, I mean, I'm not looking for anything, but if, like, I randomly meet the most perfect person in the world than I wouldn't, like, not date them."

KATE

STUDENT WHO ATTENDED SPEED DATING

After eventually admitting that she wouldn't mind dating someone here at the College, Kate, another one of my dates, stated, "Most people really do want a relationship, they just don't want to call it a relationship."

When asked about hookup culture, the general consensus seemed to be that students felt a little bit threatened by the inherent expectation involved. Though nobody felt that total monogamous commitment was necessary to college life, most people were grateful that events like this one gave them a chance to meet people in a safe setting.

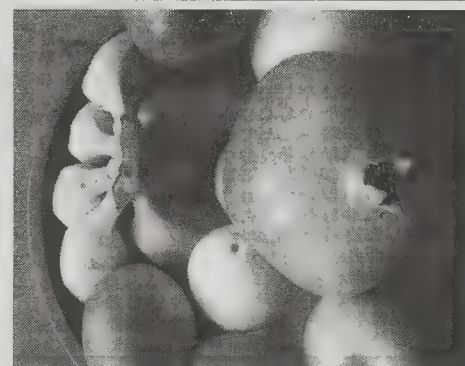
As Olivia, one student I spoke to, put it, "This event is nice because all of the lights are on and it's not sketchy. It's nice because it's not Atwater."

When the event ended at 9:15 p.m., students continued to happily linger, chatting and exchanging numbers and speculating as to whether or not Felly's show would actually be protested later that night.

Edwards addressed the crowd one last time, making it clear that she hoped to make speed dating a regular occurrence and asking them to please let her know if they had any feedback for future events.

(Contact her at gedwards@middlebury.edu if you have any questions or potential ideas). After noting the impressive turnout, Edwards ended the evening with a quick word of closure.

"Feel free to hang out," she said warmly, "I hope you found friends, bae or whatever else you were looking for."



Wellness Tip of the Week

By Wellness Leaders
Contributing Columnists

A Holistic View at Health

Putting in multiple hours of work at a time? Break it up! Studies show that taking a break every 15-25 minutes can help you be more productive and efficient in the long run. Taking a short walk, chatting with a friend, getting some tea, power napping, or watching a few YouTube clips can actually mean better work.

Mental Health News:

- On Thursday, Dec. 10, Crossroads is hosting a Harry Potter Marathon from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Come watch your favorites of the series!

- On Friday, Dec. 11, yoga classes of various styles will be offered in the Crest Room beginning at 10 a.m.



GEORGIA GRACE EDWARDS

Most people who went to the speed dating event hoped to meet new people.

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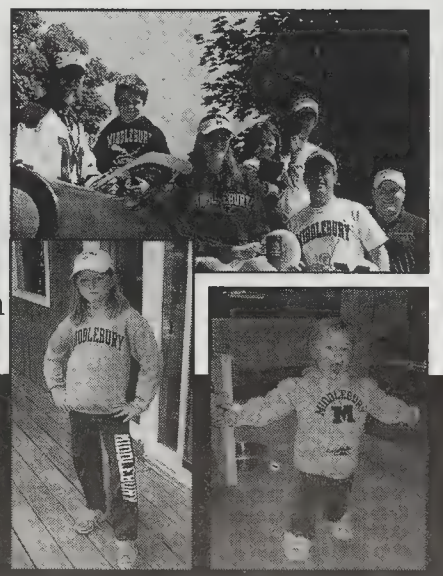
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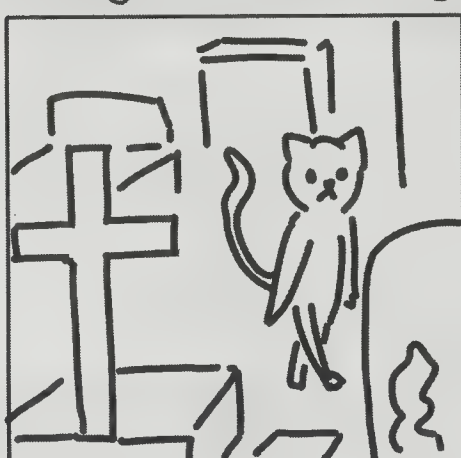
The Middlebury Campus

By Renson Swaged: Julius Caesar, Act III, scene i



VAASU TANEJA

College Cats Abroad by Emily Cox go/comicsbyemily

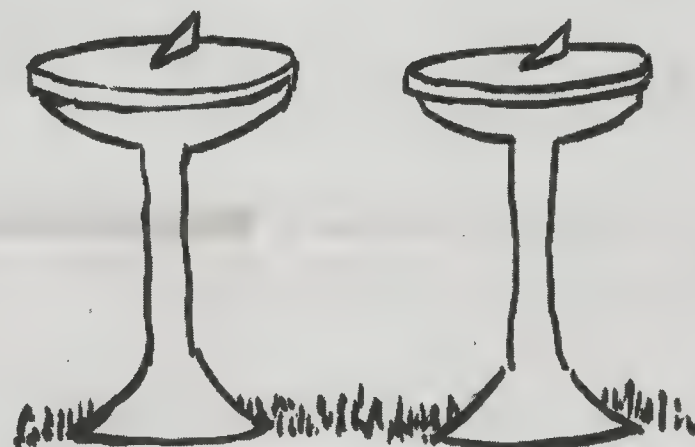


EMILY COX

Laundry Room Love



KAITLYND COLLINS



SUNDIAL

BIRDBATH
(WITH A SHARK
IN IT)

NOLAN ELLSWORTH AND KATI BAUGHMAN



BMC

BOONE MCCOY-CRISP



W/H

WIN HOMER

ARTS & SCIENCES

The Middlebury Campus

Diverse Aesthetics in Fall Dance Concert

By Will Simpson
Contributing Writer

As the last house lights dimmed in the dance theater of the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCA), the audience quickly hushed their conversation in anticipation of the Fall Dance Concert's first number. The spectators — a healthy mix of students and community members — waited quietly as the performers shuffled onstage under the cover of darkness.

The Friday and Saturday performances (Dec. 4-5) were the culmination of the semester for Visiting Assistant Professor of Dance Scotty Hardwig's Intermediate/Advanced Dance 1 class, which is made up of all dance majors or joint dance majors. Each student had choreographed a piece for the concert.

Hardwig used a two-pronged learning approach in his intensive course.

"[The students] have been through a semester of technique practice, but also learned compositional skills and tools," he said.

The first piece of the show, "Growth Variations," featured all nine student choreographers.

"Growth Variations" is a collection of composition studies that [the choreographers] have made over the course of the semester that I've directed and woven together into a longer study," Hardwig explained. "These studies that we've collected over the course of the semester are really a testament to how much they've grown as performers. It's really striking to see how they evolve, especially in their technical practice."

In addition to this series of studies and the nine student-choreographed pieces, a group of dancers performed a "newcomer's work" entitled "Between Two Meanings." An annual facet of the Fall Dance Concert, the "newcomer's work" is a work choreographed by a faculty member or student who has never performed in the dance theater or in a dance show before.

The dances of the night ranged widely in terms of themes, costumes and even the performers' movements. Some pieces relied on abrupt, jerky movements; others saw dancers sweeping smoothly across the stage. In "Coral Reef," performers draped themselves in fishing nets, while the opener, "Growth Variations," showcased dancers in more flexible, all-purpose attire. The styles of music in the show were also varied, with at least several of the dances incorpo-



RACHEL FRANK

Students from Scotty Hardwig's Intermediate/Advanced Dance 1 class choreographed nine pieces for the Fall Dance Concert.

rating multiple songs with a variety of genres and tempos. Even the manner in which the performers bowed was tailored to their piece, with many foregoing a traditional bowing technique in favor of a quick, recognizable movement from their dance.

A crucial part of the preparation for

the show was the feedback and assessment process. Spread out over the course of the semester, each of the three feedback performances allowed dance professors and a guest dancer and choreographer, Liz Lerman, to help the students shape their pieces.

The feedback that the choreographers received prompted and encouraged large changes to their dances.

"It's not really an easy thing to take feedback and large changes, particularly with an art form that deals with the body... [where] there's a lot of vulnerability and a lot of investment," Hardwig commented.

Matea Mills-Andruk '18.5 performed in two of the dances, although she was not a member of the Intermediate/Advanced Dance 1 class. Observing the critique process taught her a huge amount about the process of creating a piece. According to her, it seemed that "the purpose of the showing was to get familiar with the feedback and for the choreographers to watch the dancers."

The Friday night performance of the Fall Dance Concert was quite impressive. It was obvious that the performers

and choreographers had put significant time into perfecting their work and ensuring that the interactions between the performers were seamless. Some of the pieces, such as "Desde la Sacha" and "It is..." shined in particular for their level of energy and catchy rhythms. Others, like the eye-opening "Things Invisible Mostly to Ourselves," were upfront in the way they tackled difficult issues like racism.

A fellow audience member, Mad-die Hampton '18, concurred, "I think the individual pieces reflect an extreme amount of thought and an amazing understanding of movement as a medium to provoke discussion."

The show as a whole did feel a bit lengthy, lasting almost two-and-a-quarter hours. This was necessary for such a sizable compilation of works, which represented a wide range of aesthetics.

Hardwig summed up the concert well, saying that the performances were all about "coming into the theater and enjoying the pleasure of watching the body in motion, watching choreography ... tapping into deeper questions about what it means to be human."



RACHEL FRANK

The two-hour show featured a diverse array of themes, costumes and movements.

**DON'T
MISS
THIS**

Vermont Choreographers' Showcase

Enjoy an evening of new dance works by Vermont choreographers Erika Lawlor Schmidt, Paula Higa, The Montpelier Movement Collective and surprise guests. The evening will feature live music, projected film, innovative improvisation and dynamic choreography.

12/11, 7 P.M. MCA DANCE THEATER

To Kill a Man

Jorge is a tranquil, middle-class family man whose neighborhood has been overrun by a fringe class of street thugs. His comparatively fortunate existence makes him the target of their intimidation one night and a hulking outlaw robs him of his insulin needle.

12/12, 3 & 8 P.M. DANA AUDITORIUM

Vocal Recital

Students of affiliate artists Carol Christensen, Susanne Peck and Beth Thompson cap off a semester of vocal study with an evening of songs and arias. Accompanied by Cynthia Huard, piano. Sponsored by the Department of Music. Free.

12/12, 8 P.M. MCA CONCERT HALL

Chance Meetings Shine in Ordinary Days

By Finne Murphy
Contributing Writer

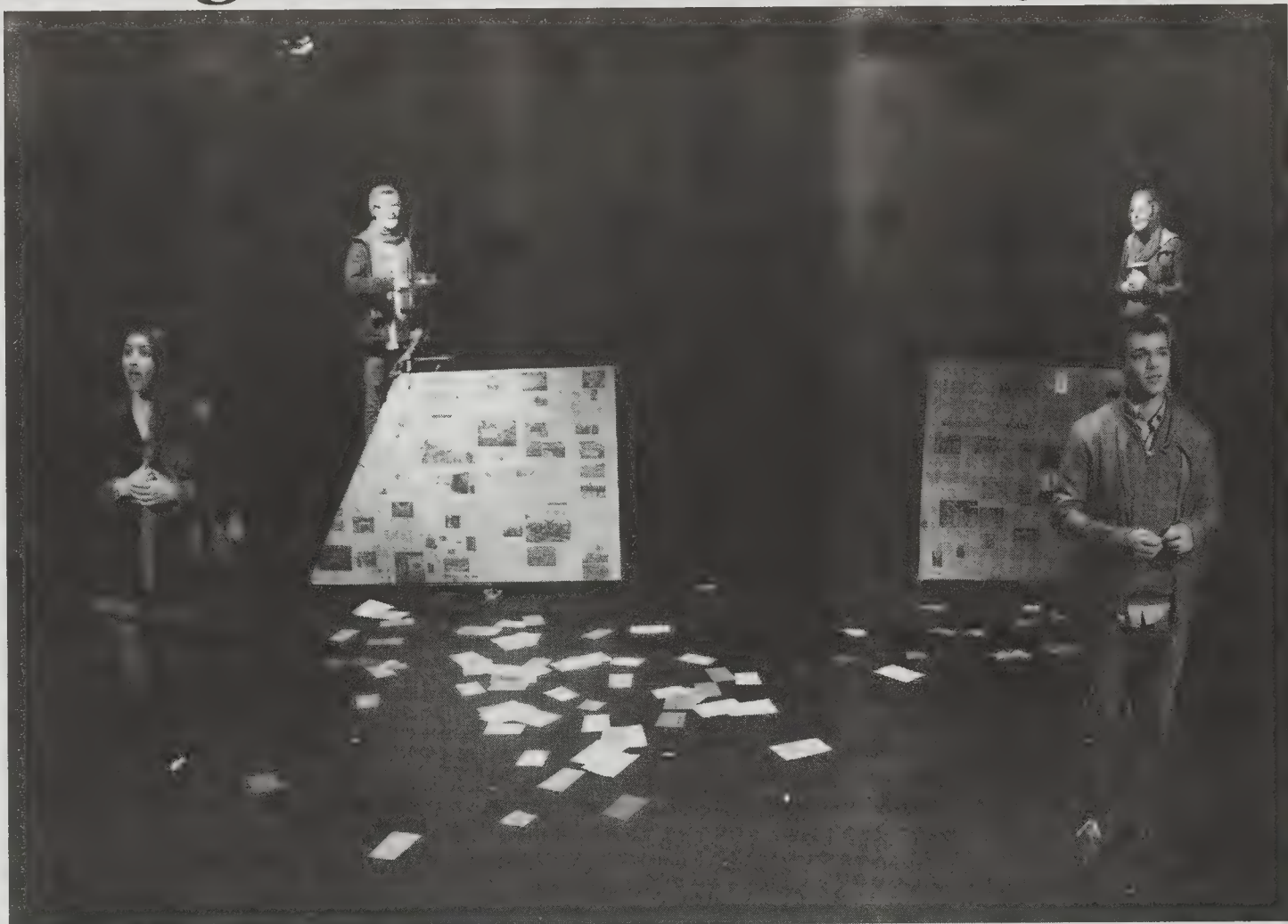
Before the musical began, director Maria Flanders '18 spoke to the audience crowded inside Hepburn Zoo. Along with a kind reminder to silence our cell phones, she implored us to recognize the ability that seemingly inconsequential chance encounters have to change our lives. The show that followed, *Ordinary Days*, with music and lyrics by Adam Gwon, poignantly explored these moments.

Running from Dec. 3 to 5, *Ordinary Days* was performed by four members of the Middlebury College Musical Players. The story, in which almost all of the dialogue is sung, follows the lives of four young people as they weather the storms of relationships, graduate school and fizzling careers. It all begins on a busy street corner, where Warren, played by Logan Wahl '19, attempts to hand out artsy flyers to passersby in New York City. As one woman passes, she accidentally drops a notebook.

This simple moment spirals into a strange and unlikely friendship between Warren and Deb, portrayed by co-producer Hannah Johnston '15.5, after Warren reaches out to Deb in order to return her notebook. The two characters could not be more different: Warren is undyingly optimistic, whilst Deb, a struggling graduate student, is fiery and defensive. Yet as they get to know each other, the nuances of their struggles find their way to the surface, and both characters change for the better.

At the same time, thirty-somethings Claire and Jason, played by Liana Barron '18 and Peter Dykeman-Birmingham '18.5, must grapple with the tensions of the next stage of their relationship: moving in together. Interactions between the two of them reach a fever pitch, forcing them to confront their fears and uncertainties. By the end, the strength they find in each other proves great enough to overcome the pain of the past.

The relatable circumstances that the four characters struggle with – relationship problems, academic confusion, uncertainties about the future and the feeling of facelessness in a vast and crowded world – remind us of the power that our actions can have over those around us. The musical is effective in demonstrating how seemingly inconsequential moments can coalesce into bright and powerful life



ELIZA MARGOLIN

The four-person cast of *Ordinary Days* sang their way through the sights, sounds and strifes of New York City living (Dec. 3-5).

transformations.

Flanders echoed this sentiment in describing her experience as a first-time director.

"I feel so lucky to have been part of the sweetest, most mutually supportive team of cast and crew for this show," she said. "They have been random, chance encounters, but wow, have they had an impact on my life story."

Even with a strong sense of backstage camaraderie, however, there were a few challenges in putting the show together.

"Logistics were tough," Flanders noted. "We had trouble initially with securing the rights [to the play], and of course it is hard to schedule with all the activities Middlebury students are involved in. One of the biggest obstacles was figuring out

the accompaniment. We ended up with half live and half recorded tracks at almost the last minute, so our pianist [Gloria Breck '18] and the cast and crew had to quickly adjust to new sound dynamics, tempos, timing and organization. Because everyone is amazing, they've done a great job of pulling through."

The songs themselves did most of the talking, serving as a bold vehicle of emotion for the characters' struggles. The set list grappled with a unique array of experiences, from feeling invisible to wanting to be anywhere else but here, from processing pain from the past to letting go of hopes for the future.

For Johnston, the show marked the moving end to her undergraduate theatre work.

"This musical is especially pertinent

to me as I prepare to graduate this coming February; it's a reminder to take a step back, take a breath and remember that things are going to work out, one way or another," she said. "I think *Ordinary Days* has a message that speaks to a lot of Middlebury students – it's important for us to remember that it's not just impressive end-goals that matter. It's imperative that we enjoy where we are now and what we're doing along the way. The musical sings a message of perspective."

With its sharp humor and sometimes painfully relatable storyline, *Ordinary Days* implores the audience to consider the fine line between the momentary and the momentous. Even if we never have a chance to see the lives we affect, the most ordinary acts in the most ordinary days can cause the most beautiful changes.

Speaker Proposes New Cholera Therapy

By Toby Aicher
Arts & Sciences Editor

Dartmouth Professor of Biochemistry Jon Lull spoke last Friday, Dec. 4 about his research using fatty acids to treat cholera and other gastrointestinal bacterial diseases, which, combined, kill 100,000 people every year.

Cholera is caused by *Vibrio cholerae* bacteria and is spread through contaminated drinking water. Before the germ theory of disease, it was believed in Europe that Cholera was a "bad air" that emanated from rotting organic matter and made people sick. John Snow, a father of epidemiology, first discovered its real method of transmission when he mapped Cholera outbreaks in London and noticed their association with certain drinking wells (he also surprisingly found that it was safest to live in or near a brewery; bacteria can't grow in beer and it was the safest thing to drink before basic sanitation).

Cholera is most prevalent in cities with poor sanitation and outbreaks often occur after natural disasters.

"Most of the time we don't get it because we're drinking purified drinking water," Lull said. "But what happens sometimes, particularly in developing areas, if there's a monsoon or a natural disaster or an earthquake like in Haiti, the water supply and sewage lines get mixed together and you can get a cholera outbreak."

People in affected areas often have little access to antibiotics and can die from severe dehydration resulting from diarrhea. Jon Lull proposed a novel solution to treating Cholera: use natural products high in monosaturated fats like sea buckthorn and synthetic analogs of fatty acids. These chemicals would be a cheap substitute to antibiotics in areas without access to them. His decades long work on Cholera virulence proteins led him to discover that fatty acids can help prophylactically prevent Cholera.

Lull is a structural biologist and primarily researches the structures of proteins – the molecules that are the active workers of a cell and carry out its essential functions. When he first joined the faculty at Dartmouth, a colleague from the Dartmouth Medical School approached him and asked him to find the structures of proteins in Cholera that make it toxic. Lull agreed (coincidentally, he remembered that audience member Mary Lothrop, Middlebury's CCI director of health profession advising, was his first researcher and worked with him when he began the project).

Lull's most exciting results have come from studying the ToxT protein, the master regulator of Cholera toxicity. Not

all cholera bacteria are pathogenic; they need to have insertions of two different packages of genes that lead to the deadly effects of cholera, and one of the insertions contains ToxT. ToxT regulates two important genes that make cholera deadly: the cholera toxin gene and the cholera toxin coregulated pilus structure.

"It was one of those scientific epiphany moments ... we can give people fatty acids and that prevents them from getting cholera"

JOHN LULL
DARTMOUTH PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY

"The cholera toxin gene is what actually makes you sick," Lull said. "Your intestinal cells take it up and the cholera toxin causes ion transporters to open up and pump ions out into your intestine. Water follows and you die of massive dehydration in a couple of days."

Jon Lull studied the ToxT protein and found its structure using a technique called X-ray crystallography. In X-ray crystallography, a protein is precipitated into a crystal and X-rays are directed at its crystal. The pattern by which light bounces off gives valuable information about a molecule's structure. When he looked at the structure, he noticed something unexpected.

"What was very surprising was the presence of a small molecule tucked in a small pocket of the middle of the protein," Lull said. "And I remember looking at it for the first time and thinking this can't be an amino acid... it looks like a

fatty acid. And sure enough it was. Like most surprises in science in retrospect it turned out to be not so much a surprise."

He discovered that the fatty acid was palmitoleic acid. When the fatty acid is bound to ToxT, it has difficulty expressing the two deadly cholera toxin genes.

One night, during dinner with his wife, Lull came to a sudden realization about the implications of his discovery.

"It was one of those scientific epiphany moments and I said, 'Oh my God, I know how to cure cholera' – we give people fatty acids and this prevents them from getting cholera," Lull said. "It seems obvious now, but no one had said that yet at this point."

Lull has since experimented on using different monosaturated fats to prevent cholera. In one mouse study, control mice died on average 24 hours after being exposed to cholera. The treatment mice who prophylactically received palmitoleic acid survived significantly longer than the control mice and were still alive after the conclusion of the experiment 48 hours after being infected.

Lull is currently pushing for clinical trials to treat patients with sea buckthorn, a plant produced in large amounts in China that is high in palmitoleic acid and working on creating synthetic chemicals that could be more effective than palmitoleic acid in treating Cholera. If his project comes to fruition, we could have a new drug in our arsenal to help prevent and treat cholera.

Clickshare Satirizes Corporate Culture

By Luke Linden
Senior Writer

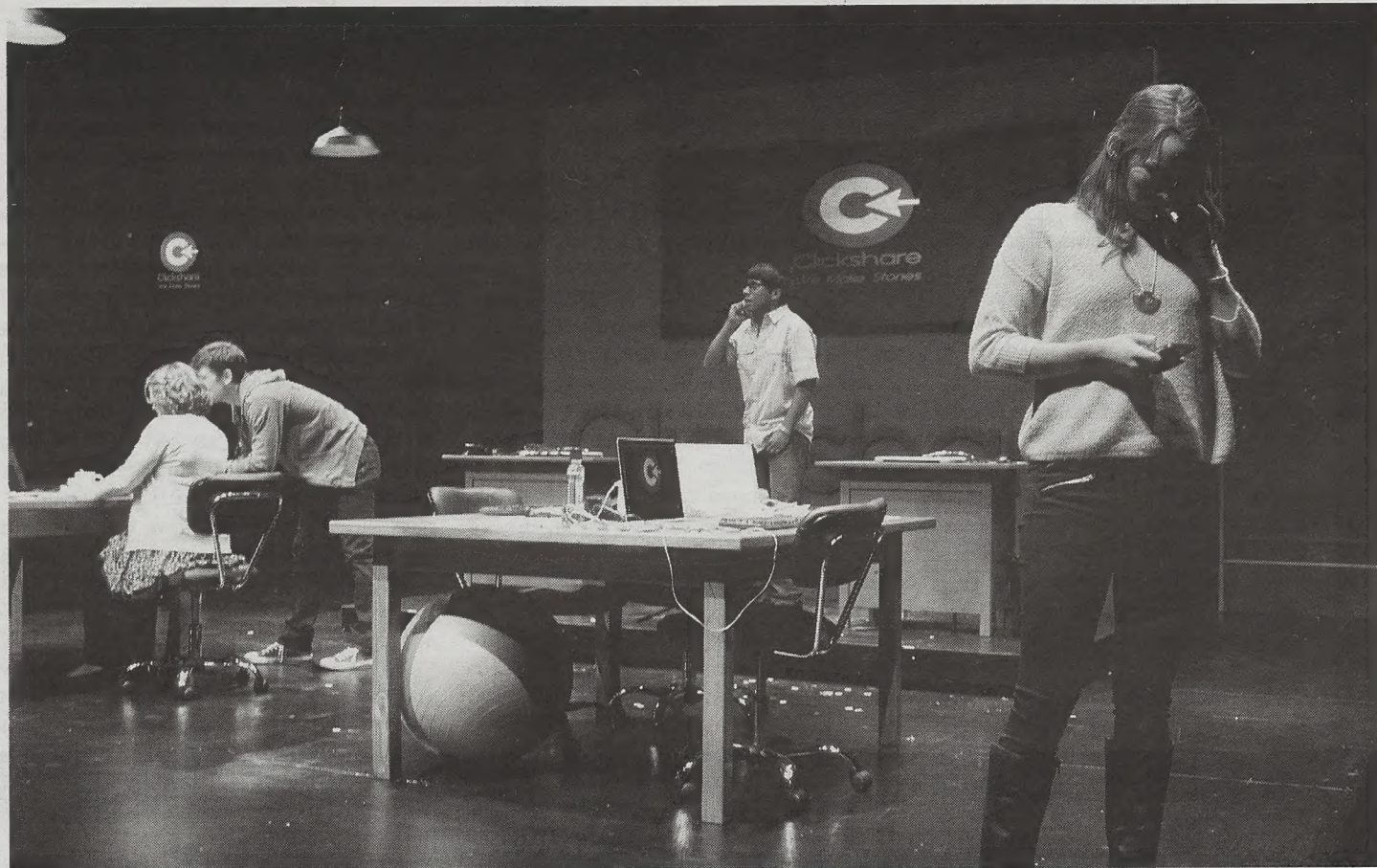
Clickshare, a new play by Lucas Kavner '06.5, premiered this weekend at the Seeler Studio Theatre at the Mahaney Center for the Arts (MCA). Directed by Associate Professor of Theatre Alex Draper and featuring an original company composed entirely of current Middlebury students, *Clickshare* proved a deft satire painted pitch-black — a raucous send-up of new media, hero-worship and corporate culture.

Clickshare was developed this summer at MIDDSummer Play Lab before it was brought on as a faculty show this fall, undergoing additional tweaks at the beginning of this semester. Taking place almost entirely in the offices of Clickshare, a news-aggregate site in the style of *The Huffington Post* or *Buzzfeed*, *Clickshare* charts the experiences of new-hire Ashley as she adjusts to her new position and stumbles across a potentially paradigm-shifting news story.

While not the first to tackle the start-up culture of our times, Kavner readily digs to its roots, unearthing the lunacy of our new status quo. The office of Clickshare that Kavner creates is a world as rich as Alice's Wonderland, possessing its own similarly irrational logic and populated by its own cast of colorful characters.

And yet, much of the setting's strength stems from the blurring of what is real and what is imagined. Before developing *Clickshare*, Kavner spent some time working at *The Huffington Post*, an experience that undoubtedly influenced his realization of *Clickshare*. The high-pressure climate, the unheeded corporate culture and the ludicrous premise of *Clickshare* will all be eerily familiar to anyone who has spent some time working within the start-up set.

Satire comes almost too easily to such a world — *Clickshare* drips with caricature, willing to veer into territory that is shocking in its absurdity. Yet Kavner's script is perfectly paced, each element carefully balanced. Larger-than-life characters are offset by the goofy earnestness of the play's central band of heroes; wild conspiracy plots and apocalyptic undertones are rooted in a highly realistic recreation of start-up culture. Dialogue is sharp and unyielding, but makes room for painfully realistic asides and rewarding banter. *Clickshare* is filled with outrageousness, but is so lucidly paced that the audience is



ALEJANDRA CHAVEZ

The faculty show follows the employees of *Clickshare*, a new-aggregate site, and recounts the challenges and crises they face.

never left behind, able to enjoy the surface pleasures of its plot machinations while contending with the complex implications at the play's core.

The cast makes remarkable work of *Clickshare*'s competing tones and influences. Eliza Renner '18 is perfectly pitched as new girl Ashley, alternatively earnest and willing to succumb to the darker forces that govern Clickshare and the culture of new media. Caitlin Duffy '15.5 brings out the subtleties of veteran Clickshare "logger" Ria, hard-edged and assertive but never cartoonish. Jackson Prince '17 and Oliver Wijayapala '17 round out the core players, respectively embodying charming slacker Colin and neurotic pragmatist Zak.

Of the eccentric members of Clickshare's hierarchy with which our heroes contend, Baz Ramos, played by Miguel Castillo '17.5, and Milano, played by Alexander Burnett '16, are highlights. Castillo suffuses the suave Ramos with equal parts charm and empty-headedness, an apt symbol of the simultaneously attractive and idiotic Clickshare itself. Burnett's

Milano is revelatory, the force around which the production revolves. An image in blue slip and blonde wig, Milano is all sly smile, assertive gait and untraceable accent. Ethereal and impressive, Milano is the face of Clickshare, its grand ideals in near-human form. She is a TedTalk, a graduation speech, incarnate. The juxtaposition between such a high-minded figure and the pettiness that marks the experiences of the four loggers at the center of the play powerfully dismantles many of the notions of progress and humanism that Silicon Valley and its ilk often invoke.

And yet, Milano is resolutely attractive and admirable. As the play's dark center is slowly teased out, perhaps the greatest mystery remaining by the end is that of Milano. Is she the icy, gleaming face of evil, impressive cheekbones and all, or is she merely the projection of our own aspirations and desires, a waking dream?

These and other contradictions make for an unclear takeaway. Far from finger-wagging, Kavner's play is characterized by

ambiguity. The audience is left wondering: are these companies suffused with poor intentions? Are we as consumers the drivers of their success or victims of their manipulations? While *Clickshare* undoubtedly prompts such questions, it thankfully avoids professing a political agenda. Questions raised are questions to be mulled over well into the future.

As director Alex Draper suggests, "I think that the crisis that it's addressing, which is pretty substantial, is not immediately new, nor is it going to go away anytime soon."

Yet perhaps by its very traditional theater format, *Clickshare* offers some optimism in our age of overwhelming digitalization.

"I find that fundamentally, we are going to recognize in ourselves the need to get out of our houses to be near live human beings and hear them tell a story," says Draper. "My optimistic, aspirational view is that theater is not threatened at all, but that it's deep need will be affirmed and reaffirmed over and over again."

BOOKING IT

By Gabrielle Owens
Senior Columnist

If mystery and suspense are your genres of choice, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Stieg Larsson is a must-read. A tense, unpredictable novel with frightening characters and a crafty plot, this book has become an international sensation. Originally published in Sweden under the title *Män som hatar kvinnor*, meaning *Men Who Hate Women*, the book has been translated and published worldwide, followed by its two sequels, film adaptations in both Swedish and English and a graphic novel adaptation, published by DC Comics. Although critics' reviews have been somewhat mixed, the novel's sheer popularity speaks to its power to capture an audience.

The story opens with Mikael Blomkvist, a journalist hired by retired CEO Henrik Vanger to look into the cold case of his grandniece Harriet's disappearance. Henrik believes Harriet was murdered by a family member. After uncovering new evidence which puts him on the trail of the killer, Blomkvist requests assistance with his research and is joined by Lisbeth Salander, the eponymous girl with the dragon tattoo. She is an exceptional computer hacker, extremely anti-social and, when need arises, unapologetically violent. Since she was declared

legally incompetent as a child, she has a legal guardian — placing her in a position of dependency which she resents.

What ensues is a familiar mystery story full of unexpected twists and turns. Larsson successfully takes tropes that appear in dozens of novels — such as the "locked room" mystery set-up — and keeps them exciting, making the ending unpredictable. He achieves the perfect balance of the mystery novel by giving you just enough information that you

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

feel like you should be able to figure it out, while obscuring enough to make sure you're still surprised when the twist happens. As with any good mystery, Blomkvist and Salander discover there are far more skeletons in the closet than just Harriet's — both proverbial and literal ones. As they delve deeper into the history and secrets of the Vanger family, they discover murders spanning decades as well as danger in the present.

As good as the suspense and mystery is, stay away from this book if you do not do well with violence in media. Larsson does not shy away from revealing the ugliest side of human nature. His characters

are intelligent and enjoyably complex, but many of them are also incredibly vicious and have no qualms about causing physical harm. The story takes many dark and unpleasant turns and leaves behind bloodied corpses in the process — other characters move forward with a horrifying lack of remorse. Larsson's graphic descriptions of kidnapping, murder, rape and torture sometimes make *Game of Thrones* look positively tame. It creates a definite atmosphere for the book, making the characters gritty and self-sufficient, while dragging the ugliest realities into the spotlight. Just don't read it if you aren't prepared to hear a story where savagery and retribution are everywhere.

Despite all the violence, the book is not devoid of emotion or happiness. In fact, without spoiling too much, I can say that part of the ending seems almost too happy, slightly out of place in a book with so much darkness. Still, the relationship between Blomkvist and Salander remains intriguing: they are definitely the most developed and most interesting characters in the book and thus their partnership creates many of the novel's high-points. The pair have some genuinely touching moments that feel like gasps of air of human goodness, although they certainly clash against one another from time to time as well. Through and

through, they challenge each other and are both better for it.

Although the announced mystery is Harriet Vanger's disappearance, the character of Lisbeth Salander is the true enigma of this novel. From her first entrance, Larsson raises a number of questions about her backstory. What could have led to her current personality? Why does an apparently brilliant though anti-social woman need a legal guardian? How much of a criminal is she? The hints we are given are murky at best and often raise more questions than they answer. Blomkvist is more often the reader's point of view character and typically we follow his revelations and deductions more than Salander's — yet Salander is the character who captures more interest and imagination. Larsson does ultimately reveal more of her backstory in his sequels, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, but for this book, Salander remains mostly indecipherable.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo may not be for everyone, but if you're looking for an intense, scary, enigmatic ride, this is the novel to get. It will puzzle you, disturb you and ultimately leave you breathless and dying to know what happens next.

Men's and Women's Squash Triumphant at Hamilton

By Will Case
Senior Writer

On Saturday, Dec. 5, the men's and women's squash teams headed to Clinton, New York to take part in matches at Hamilton College. The women's squad bounced back from a tough loss to Cornell on Nov. 21 to defeat Hamilton 6-3, and the men's team dominated both their opponents, Hamilton and Hobart, 9-0.

"Cornell was our opening match and our first trip traveling, so getting back into the swing of things as well as getting rid of all the nerves and anxiety of our opening match, was a big thing," said Tiffany Hau '16, a team captain.

With the women's squad's win over Hamilton, the fourteenth-ranked Panthers continued their streak of dominance over the Continentals, defeating them for the fourth consecutive time in three years. Middlebury swept all matches in the second through seventh slots on the ladder. Bea Kuijpers '19 and Alexa Comai '19 provided the Panthers with strong performances as they both captured their first victories of their college careers, (11-2, 11-3, 11-6) and (11-8, 11-5, 11-8) respectively, and captains Zoe Carey '16 and Hau provided the Panthers with a punch in the top-middle of the ladder, winning their matches in the third and fourth spots, (12-10, 11-9, 11-2) and (11-6, 11-1, 11-5).

"I've really been working on my mental game," Carey said. "During the Cornell match, once I convinced myself that I could win, I was better able to stay in points and give her a good fight. I was a bit more shaky due to nerves going into

the Hamilton match against Lillie Simourian, but I won the big points when I had to and became more confident as the match progressed."

Getting stronger going into January will be a key for the Panthers' overall success going forward. They play important matches against Bates, ranked fifteenth-nationally, and Brown, ranked eleventh-nationally, on Jan. 8 and 16 respectively.

"We've been training really hard and our team has been really building confidence as the season is progressing," Hau said. "It's definitely always tough having the holiday break for winter sports," Carey said.

"We have been training hard to improve our overall level of fitness," Carey added. "I know this will show through during our matches against Bates and Brown."

On the men's side this weekend, the Panthers swept both Hamilton and Hobart 9-0. The team dropped only two games in its defeat of Hamilton and only three against Hobart.

The middle of the ladder continued to be a strength for the Panthers. Against Hamilton, Harrison Croll '16 bounced back from losing his first game to take the next three and the win (9-11, 11-2, 11-6, 13-11). Henry Pearson '17 dominated in the sixth slot (11-3, 11-3, 11-2), while first-year Robert Rohrbach '19 earned a win in the ninth spot (11-4, 11-1, 12-10) his first collegiate action.

In the match against Hobart, co-Captain David Cromwell '16 (11-7, 14-12, 13-11) and Wyatt French '17 (11-1, 11-4, 11-6) swept their opponents to continue their

winning ways in the second and third slots respectively.

Will Kurth '18 continues to stand out at the bottom of the ladder for the Panthers throughout the early part of the season, sweeping both of his opponents (11-4, 11-7, 12-10) and (11-3, 11-6, 13-11).

"I was more fit than Dietz and I knew if I could focus on implementing my game plan I would beat him," Kurth said. "When I think too critically about a part of my swing or my movement during a match, I tend to mess up strategically. This past weekend, I stopped worrying about the technicalities and just played my game. I felt like my old self and won defiantly. It gives me confidence to work super hard from now until January."

Although he may show up lower on the lineup card than last season, Kurth provides insurance for the Panthers that they will win their matches at the bottom of the ladder.

"It's important not to think selfishly and think of this as a good thing," Kurth said. "It means other guys on the team have raised their game. My team has confidence that I will win my matches at the eighth position, and I plan to do just that."

The squash teams are off until the end of the break when they travel to Maine to take on Bates on Friday, Jan. 8 and Colby and Hamilton on Saturday, Jan. 9 to start the critical stretch of their season.

"Bates, Bowdoin and Colby will be grueling matches that demand focused preparation and training," Kurth said. "We are looking forward to the challenge, especially for another chance to beat Bates."

THE MIDDLEBURY GREAT EIGHT

RANKING	TEAM Emily's Excellent Eight
1	SQUASH The men's and women's teams won 24 of the 27 games they played last weekend.
2	WOMEN'S HOCKEY They held off Conn. College to keep a 4-1-1 overall record.
3	MEN'S HOCKEY They also did well last weekend, have lost one more game than the women's team.
4	MEN'S BASKETBALL They made up for their loss to Skidmore in Tuesday's game.
5	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL Hopefully they can bounce back after losing to Skidmore.
6	SWIMMING AND DIVING I know they're still training, but this ranking was necessary based on how other teams did.
7	THIS WEATHER I'd really like it to snow at some point before I go home for break.
8	CONCUSSIONS They are just horrible.

Women's Basketball Loses Road Heartbreaker

By Alex Deutsch
Staff Writer

After a hot 3-0 start to the season that featured a beatdown over Oneonta St. and two nail-biting victories against Hartwick and at in-state opponent Johnson St., the Middlebury women's basketball team suffered its first loss this

season at Skidmore, 63-60. After beating the Thoroughbreds last year by just three points, the Panthers had hoped they could repeat the same feat, but excessive turnovers proved to be Middlebury's downfall.

The Panthers trailed for all but 29 seconds of the first half, eventually entering halftime down 32-26 after a 9-6 Skidmore run right before the half.

The Thoroughbreds stretched the lead to 10 multiple times in the third quarter, but Middlebury refused to die.

A 15-3 run early in the fourth quarter gave Middlebury a late one-point lead, 56-55, with 4:09 to play. With both teams locking down on the defensive end, points were hard to come by down the stretch. Skidmore's Veronica Mocerri hit a three-pointer to give the Thoroughbreds the lead once more, but Rachel Collins '18 nailed a jump shot to tie the game at 58.

Mocerri came up huge for Skidmore once again, hitting a three-pointer to go up three with 51 seconds left in the

fourth. Catherine Harrison '19 then hit two quick free throws to bring the Panthers within one before fouling to extend the game. Skidmore made what could have been a deadly mistake, turning the ball over with 13 seconds to play. Middlebury got a look at a go-ahead layup with eight seconds remaining but could not capitalize. Skidmore's Kelly Donnelly hit two free throws to make it a three-point game once again. Panther point guard Sarah Kaufman '18 had a chance to tie the game and send it to overtime, but her desperation three point attempt missed the mark.

The Middlebury team that got off the bus in Saratoga seemed to have been a different team than the one that went undefeated in the month of November. The Panthers turned the ball over an insane 28 times and Skidmore was able to convert those miscues into 32 points. Middlebury far surpassed its average of 19.0 turnovers per game with that mark. Additionally, Skidmore's bench outscored Midd 28-6.

Kaufman led all scorers with 20, while

Harrison added 12, and both Eileen Daley '18 and Collins had nine for the Panthers.

First-year phenom Harrison continued her unbelievable collegiate start grabbing a career-high 14 rebounds. Harrison is now averaging 14.0 points a game and 11.3 rebounds a game. She also is shooting an impressive 61.5 percent from the field. Harrison and Kaufman form a formidable 1-2 punch. The latter is averaging 17.8 points per game and is automatic from the line, shooting 83.3 percent.

The Panthers look to get back on the winning track Saturday, Dec. 11 in their home opener against Plattsburgh State at 2 p.m., and will play seven games between today and the first day of the Winter Term, including some holiday season action at the NYU Holiday Classic January 2 and 3. Everything leads up to the first weekend of conference play which will be at home for the Panthers as they square off against Wesleyan and Conn. College on Friday, Jan. 8 and Saturday, Jan. 9.

BY THE NUMB3RS

49 Seconds were remaining in regulation when Vincent Gisoni '18 scored the game-tying goal against Conn. College on Friday.

Seconds between Michael McGean '17 and the second-place finisher in the 500 free on Saturday against Amherst. **7.45**

20 Points on 7-13 shooting for women's basketball's Sarah Kaufman '18 in their loss to Skidmore on Saturday.

Victories in 18 matches for the men's squash team on Saturday against Hamilton and Hobart. **18**

7 Points for Hockey's Maddie Winslow '18 this season, good for a tie for third in the NESCAC so far this season.

Women's Hockey Wins One, Ties One Against Conn. College in Doubleheader

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

right past the posts to bring the score even.

Six minutes later, Middlebury had two chances to take the lead, first with a slot shot by Jessica Young '18 and a rebound hook by Aiello, but neither player could find the back of the net.

The rest of the third period was scoreless, although Middlebury was dangerous on the puck. The ladies had several textbook setups that they failed to complete. A Panther power play came at 13:52 on which Middlebury was unable to capitalize. Connecticut nearly took the

win with less than a minute of play remaining, but Panther goaltender Kiana Verplancke '19 blocked the scoring bid and the rebound went wide.

In overtime, Winslow had a chance to score the game-winning goal, but missed the puck. Julia Wardwell '16 powered a shot from the left circle that Chester gloved. Midway through overtime, the Panthers looked poised to score, controlling the puck in the Conn College zone. Winslow passed to Wulf, but she could not track it down. Young had a powerful shot that missed near the post. Haley LaFontaine '18 sent a wrist shot that careered just wide.

"The effort is there, we just need to find more ways to score," Wardwell said. "I think it's absolutely possible if we keep working hard and continue to shoot the puck."

Connecticut had an excellent chance at scoring with 27 seconds left, but the puck went flying just over the net.

Both goaltenders put up a strong showing: Verplancke made 22 saves in her collegiate debut for the Panthers, while Katherine Chester made 31 for the Camels. Middlebury had 32 shots on goal, compared to 23 for Conn College.

"Chester defended her net well. We had a lot of good opportunities to bury

the puck but unfortunately we could not capitalize," Wardwell said. "We played with a lot of hustle, which was great, but we will keep pushing ourselves in practice to get better both individually and as a team."

In the NESCAC rankings, Middlebury (3-0-1) dropped just behind Amherst (4-0), who muscled out a win against Trinity. The Panthers are still ranked third nationally, behind number two Elmira, who defeated them last week.

Middlebury returns to the ice next Saturday with a home game against Castleton at 3 p.m.

LORD JEFFS OUTSWIM MIDDLEBURY IN FIRST DUAL MEET ON ROAD

By Emily Bustard
Sports Editor

Middlebury men's and women's swimming and diving traveled to Amherst College's Pratt Pool last Saturday, Dec. 5 to race against the Lord Jeffs in their first dual meet of the season. Both the Panther men and women fell to their hosts, emerging from the meet with very similar scores of 173.5-111 and 177.5-111.5, respectively.

"Dual meets are always a great opportunity to get up and race while we're in the middle of our training," women's co-Captain Lily Sawyer '16 said.

Isabel Wyrer '18, Liza MacCawatt '19, Megan Griffin '16 and Morgan Burke '17 were some of Middlebury's first off the blocks for the 200 medley relay, and their time of 1:50.50 secured second place for the Panthers.

In the next race, Lucy Scott '16 finished less than three seconds behind Amherst's Marie Maxwell (first) to take third in the 1000 free.

Burke placed third in the 100 free (54.12),

touching the wall just 0.12 and 0.07 seconds behind the top two Amherst swimmers, while Alaina Pribis '19 finished the 500 free a heart-breaking 0.16 seconds behind Lord Jeff Charlotte Chudy to notch another third place finish for the Panthers.

Wyer left her competitors in the 200 free in her wake with a time of 1:55.45, and first-year Grace Stimson '19 took first in the 200 IM (2:14.77).

Stimson touched the wall just 1.10 seconds before Pierce (2:15.87), and Katie Aman '19 captured third in the IM event with her 2:18.48-second swim.

"We beat Amherst for the first time in a long time last year, so they came back with a vengeance," said Maddie Pierce '16, Sawyer's co-captain. "[However,] we came off a tough week of training, and the team performed really well given that."

Burke, Griffin, Stephanie Andrews '18 and Wyrer later won the 400 free relay in a combined time of 3:41.96.

Sawyer's other co-captain, Griffin, explained that "Coach Rueppel sees meets as

extensions of training, so our goal was to race hard, have fun and not worry about times."

On the men's side, the Panthers' 'A' entry — made up of Paul Lagasse '16, Jack McLaughlin '18, Brendan Leech '19 and Bryan Cheuk '16 — won the 400 free relay with a time of 3:14.04.

Individually, Michael McGean '17 tied Lord Jeff Connor Haley to win the 1000 free (9:54.51).

Later, McGean (first) and Andrew Rosenthal '16 (third) swept two of the top three spots in the men's 500 free. McGean sealed his win by 7.45 seconds with a time of 4:50.94, while Rosenthal rounded out the podium with a 5:00.90.

Connor McCormick '18 won the 200 IM with a time of 2:04.03.

Cheuk's 21.86 in the 50 free earned him a third place finish as he came in just 0.74 seconds after the winner, and his 48.84 in the 100 free secured him second in that race.

Leech and Andy Grant '17 earned overall points for Middlebury, swimming a 2:02.84 in the 200 backstroke and a 2:05.66 in the

200 IM respectively to place second in each of those events.

In the diving portion of the meet, both Will Greene '19 (209.25) and Elissa DeNunzio '18 (188.63) placed second on the 1-meter board to earn points for the Panthers, while DeNunzio led the competition in the 3-meter event (198.00).

"Overall, both the women's and men's teams had great swims this past weekend," Griffin said. "It's always fun to race against a NESCAC rival."

When the teams began their official practices a few weeks ago, Head Coach Bob Rueppel pointed out that, "Not looking too far ahead is the key with such a long season."

"Right now, [we] are focused on putting in the work for the last few weeks on campus before we head off to Florida for training camp [in late December and early January]," Pierce said.

Before the teams leave campus for their short winter break, the Panthers will host Springfield for their second dual meet of the season this Saturday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m.

Men's Hockey Stages Two NESCAC Comebacks

By Andrew Rigas
Sports Editor

After entering the third period of both of this weekend's games trailing their opponents, the Middlebury men's hockey team stayed unbeaten in the NESCAC by coming from behind to tie Conn. College 2-2 and defeat Tufts 3-2 on Friday and Saturday Dec. 4-5.

The Panthers traveled to Connecticut College for their first away NESCAC game of the season, hoping to avenge their 1-0 loss to the Camels in the PrimeLink Great Northern ShootOut the week before.

They struck first at around 18 minutes into the first period when Mark Lyman '19 got the rebound off Mike Najjar '17's shot and put it home for his first career goal.

The Camels came back to take a 2-1 lead in the second period with two goals from Joe Birmingham assisted by Joe Giordano. Birmingham knocked in a rebound just over halfway through the period to tie the game and drove his go-ahead goal in from the slot with 1:49 remaining in the period.

Down 2-1 with 51 seconds left in the contest, Head Coach Neil Sinclair pulled goaltender Liam Moorfield-Yee '16 for the extra attacker to try to tie the game at two. Ron Fishman '16 received the puck at the blue line and passed it to Max Greenwald '16. Greenwald sent the puck towards the far side where Vincent Gisonti '18 then redirected it into the back of the net for the game-tying goal.

"I saw Vinny on the back door," Greenwald said. "I shot it at his stick, he deflected it and it went in."

The game went to overtime, but neither team could score and the game ended in a 2-2 tie. Moorfield-Yee made 35 saves to move to 0-1-1 for the season in his second consecutive start, while Conn College's Jonah Conlin, after shutting out the Panthers last game, saved 36 shots.

Middlebury was back on the ice the following night at Tufts. Neither team could get it going offensively in the first period, and it ended tied at zero.

At the 9:34 mark of the second period, Gisonti was whistled for a tripping penalty, giving the Jumbos a one-man advantage. Tufts' Nick Balboa drove home his first career goal 1:14 into the power play to move his team ahead 1-0. Less than two minutes later, Stephen Bell fired a shot and careened in to punch his own rebound into the net.

For the second straight game, the Panthers' opponent outscored them 2-0 in the second period to take a lead into the final 20 minutes of regulation.

"In both games we had a strong start, a bad second period, and a great third period," Greenwald said. "We can definitely improve our second period. We have come out and played down to other teams' levels."

Greenwald took matters into his own hands at the beginning of the third period. 2:40 in, he got to a loose puck first and skated towards the net before firing

one past the Tufts netminder for the Panthers' first goal of the game and his first of the season. Paul Falvey '16 tied the game four minutes later, sneaking his shot from the circle just under the crossbar.

With a little over one minute left in regulation, Zach Haggerty '16 gathered the puck in the neutral zone and sped into the Tufts zone. He ripped a shot that Tufts goalie Nik Nugnes blocked, but it rebounded to Cameron Romoff '17, who beat Nugnes for the game-winning goal.

The Panthers outshot the Jumbos 20-10 in the third period and 52-35 overall.

Stephen Klein '18 got the start in net for Middlebury and made 33 saves, in-

cluding a couple after Romoff's goal to preserve the lead, to move to 2-1-1 on the season.

"[Klein] has been playing great for us," Greenwald said. "Both guys [Klein and Moorfield] have been playing well. I think coach sees that and is rewarding both of them for their hard work and their great play."

With the win, the Panthers move to 2-2-2 overall and 2-0-2 in the NESCAC. They will put their undefeated record in the conference on the line this weekend when they travel to Hamilton and fifth-ranked Amherst on Friday and Saturday Dec. 11-12.

PANTHER SCOREBOARD

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL	vs. Skidmore	60-63 L	This new team is still working out some of the kinks, clear in their first loss of the season.
MEN'S BASKETBALL	vs. Skidmore	80-63 L	Early signs of concern for the Panthers.
MEN'S ICE HOCKEY	vs. Conn. College	2-1 (OT) W	A clutch goal with less than a minute left on the clock earned a comeback victory.
WOMEN'S ICE HOCKEY	vs. Conn. College	3-2 W	Not quite the 5-1 performance from pre-season, but still solid from the Lady Panthers.
MEN'S SQUASH	vs. Colby	9-0 W	A defiant performance against a scared Hamilton team.

EDITORS' PICKS



ANDREW RIGAS (24-15, .615)



ALEX MORRIS (81-78, .509)



EMILY BUSTARD (51-58, .468)



JOE MACDONALD (74-86, .463)

Women's Basketball:
Will the Panthers (3-1) win their home opener vs. Plattsburgh St. (4-2) on Friday?

YES
I hope Pepin Gym is rockin' for the home opener.

YES
Gonna be honest and say that finals are really lowering my effort in ed's picks.

YES
Home court advantage!

YES
Things are moving in the right direction for the program. Unlike my editor's picks that will never recover.

CFB pick'em: Does Deshaun Watson, Derrick Henry, or Christian McCaffrey win the Heisman on Saturday night?

MCCAFFREY
The guy just broke Barry Sanders' single season all-purpose yards record for pete's sake.

MCCAFFREY
I have never heard of any of these people so I'm just copying Rigas.

HENRY
I really don't follow football closely enough to know these things.

HENRY
Always go with 'Bama. But don't draft him. Crimson Tide backs don't usually fare well.

Men's Swimming: Can Midd (0-3) get their first win of the season vs. Springfield (0-5 on Saturday)?

YES
This is as good a chance as it's gonna get for them.

YES
If I said no, there would probably be serious repercussions. (You know who you are.)

YES
They won this meet last year too.

YES
Just swim better.

NBA pick'em: Do the Warriors lose over winter break?

YES
Although, my bet is on them breaking the Bulls' win record.

NO
I dare to be different. Peace out all, have a great break.

YES
I mean, that's 11 games. I'd be very surprised if they won all of them.

NO
But they WILL lose before! Friday, Dec. 11 at Boston. And will finish 80-2. They play the C's again in April.



LAST GASP

With 51 seconds left in the contest against Conn. College, Vinny Gistoni '18 scored from the far post to give the Panthers a comeback W. See page 19 for full coverage.

Men's Basketball Bests VT Rivals

By Joe MacDonald
Sports Editor

The Middlebury men's basketball team has begun to claw their way back towards a .500 record by stomping Johnson St. for the second time in five days on Thursday, Dec. 3 and beating Castleton St. in Middlebury's home opener on Tuesday, Dec. 8, sandwiched around a five-point loss on the road at Skidmore on Saturday, Dec. 5, to move to 4-5 on the season.

Middlebury once again had an easy time dispatching the Badgers of Johnson St., using its considerable size advantage while out rebounding a winless Johnson team 45-12. It was all systems go out of the gate for Middlebury, as the Panthers jumped out to a 7-0 lead off of layups from Connor Huff '16 and Matt Daley '16 and a three-pointer from leading scorer Matt St. Amour '17. Middlebury took a 10-point lead with 8:20 to go in the first half and led by double digits from that point on. Jack Daly '18 capped a 12-0 run to end the half with a layup to make the score 45-21.

The Panthers scored 50 points in the second half on the way to a 95-48 win. St. Amour led all scorers with 19 points on 7-10 shooting and 5-7 from beyond the arc. Forward Eric McCord '19 posted a career-high 10 points and added five boards to his stat line. Daley was efficient and productive with eight points on 4-6 shooting and eight boards.

Middlebury's next contest at Skidmore, who beat NESCAC Champion Wesleyan in the first round of the 2015 NCAA Tournament and returned two All-League

players including Co-Liberty League Player of the Year Aldin Medunjanin, proved to be much tougher. The Panthers caught a break with Medunjanin out for the contest, but still could not overcome the Thoroughbreds.

St. Amour had a great first half for Middlebury, scoring 14 points on 4-7 shooting, 3-4 from deep and 3-4 from the charity stripe, as the Panthers went into halftime with a 35-29 lead.

The Thoroughbreds began the second half with an 11-6 run to take the lead by one, lost it on a couple of layups from McCord and Hilal Dahleh '19, then took a lead they would never relinquish when Nick Volpe drained a three-pointer to make it 47-45 with 12:13 to play.

Skidmore kept Middlebury at bay for the rest of the game, stretching the lead to 10 with 4:35 left, but failing to put the Panthers away.

The Thoroughbreds led by just five late in the contest when Daly fed Dahleh for a three-pointer to tighten the score at 72-70 with exactly one minute to play. At the other end, Skidmore's Edvinas Rupkus hit a pair of free throws to go back up by four. The Panthers tried to get a quick shot up but missed. Daley was able to corral the rebound and put it back up and in, drawing the Panthers within two once again. Rupkus once again made things difficult, hitting another pair of free throws for Skidmore. Middlebury closed the gap to one with 18 seconds remaining when Daly finished a three-point play the old-fashioned way, making a lay up and calmly sinking the free throw, but Skidmore just could

not miss from the line, as point guard Royce Paris made two more free throws for the Thoroughbreds. It took all of six seconds for Dahleh to make a layup to make it 78-77, but once again it was Rupkus who made two more free throws to make it 80-77. With five seconds left, the Panthers needed a three-pointer, but the last-ditch attempt missed the mark, and Skidmore sank two more free throws to close it out, 82-77.

"I was happy with the run we had down the stretch to get a chance to tie the game in the final seconds," Head Coach Jeff Brown said. "Our group plays with grit and determination."

The Panthers coasted to their fourth win of the season with a 96-74 victory over Castleton St. Middlebury lead for the final 38:28 of the contest. Middlebury loves to run on offense, and finally showed off their aptitude to do so with 18 fastbreak points.

"We weren't as successful as we wanted to be in our transition game [against Skidmore]," Coach Brown said.

Jake Brown '17 notched a game-high 16 points and added eight assists to the mix. St. Amour continued his hot shooting with four three-pointers, including a 75-footer right before halftime, and 12 points overall. Zach Baines '19 and Adisa Majors '18 tallied double digit points with 11 and 10, respectively.

Middlebury plays just one more game before the long Christmas break, a Saturday, Dec. 12 contest with a Plattsburgh St. squad that has proven difficult in the past.

Women's Hockey Defeats Camels

By Ethan Brady
Senior Writer

The Middlebury women's hockey team went 1-0-1 in their two-game homestand against Connecticut College this weekend at Chip Kenyon '85 Arena, bringing their overall record to 4-1-1.

On Friday night, Middlebury broke a 2-2 tie in the third period to win 3-2 over the Camels.

Middlebury controlled the ice but not the scoreboard during the first period, putting seven of the first eight shots on goal but making none of them. Jenna Marotta '19 took three shots during a Panther power play and Shanna Hickman '19 sent back-to-back shots a minute later, but the Connecticut netminder let none through.

The Camels scored first, just before the end of the period. The Panthers responded early in the next period when Maddie Winslow '18 corrected a shot by Janka Hlinka '18. On the power play five minutes later, Elizabeth Wulf '18 gave Middlebury the lead with a shot from the right.

Conn College answered late in the third period with a goal on the rebound to tie the game at 2-2. Just 49 seconds later, Carly Watson '17 skated to a loose puck in the high slot and sent a rocket to the upper corner of the net, securing a win. Watson came off the ice with a goal and two assists for the Panthers.

"The game was a back and

forth battle in regards to scoring, with both teams capitalizing on momentum shifts," Watson said. "I thought we did a really good job of maintaining possession and controlling the game, which is very encouraging for being the beginning of the season with a very young team."

The Camels could not capitalize on any of their three power plays. The Middlebury women played aggressively throughout the game, taking 33 shots on goal compared to Connecticut's 19.

On Saturday, the Panthers and Camels went into overtime tied at 1-1, but neither team could score in the first overtime game for both teams.

Middlebury dominated the first period, leading Connecticut 14-7 in shots on goal, but could not convert any of those shots into a goal. The Panthers had two 2-on-1 opportunities in the offensive zone, first with a wrist shot by Kelly Sherman '17 at 8:51 and then a shot from inside the circle by Allie Aiello '17, but Connecticut's goalie, Katherine Chester, stopped both.

Each of the teams scored its goal in the second period, two minutes apart from each other. The Camels were first on the scoreboard with a shot by Lily Connolly at 4:23. At 6:28, Katherine Jackson '19 made an attempt that was blocked by Connecticut's netminder, but Kelly Sherman '17 placed the rebound

SEE WOMEN'S HOCKEY, PAGE 18

INSIDE SPORTS



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING FALLS TO AMHERST IN DUAL MEET
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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL LOSES FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON ON THE ROAD AT SKIDMORE.
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